



Message from the Commissioner Raymond Wong Hung-chiu

I am greatly honoured to be your new Commissioner, a position which should provide me with an invaluable experience of working in partnership with all of you who are known for your dedication, professionalism and integrity. It is indeed a great challenge to me to hold this very important position. With your full support and our concerted efforts, I am confident of an open pledge of our departmental motto of "commitment and excellence" in providing the best quality service to the public.

Since I took up the post as Commissioner on July 16, I have visited various formations and talked to different staff representatives. I am extremely impressed with what I have seen and I have tremendous respect for our colleagues who are faced with numerous challenges in their multifarious role as Customs officers. As head of an operation department, I believe it is important for me to keep in regular touch with all my colleagues including those in the frontline. Through enhanced communication, we should seek to strengthen our understanding on all areas of mutual concern and to work together to provide the best service to the community.

Looking ahead, we have a full schedule to deliver. The public will continue to expect great strides in our

traditional control and enforcement role to detect smuggling, to protect revenue, intellectual property rights and consumers as well as to uphold our trading integrity. They will also be watching us to see how we have enhanced our international profile, particularly as the Vice-chairman of the World Customs Organization representing the Asia Pacific Region. The business community, on the other hand, will monitor the fulfillment of our trade facilitation commitment to implementing the recommendations arising from the Helping Business Consultancy Study to streamline our cargo clearance requirements and services. Internally, we are in the process of implementing the recommendations identified in our Root and Branch Review to improve our intelligence, information technology and human resources (HR) support functions as well as to re-engineer certain components of our business processes.

On the HR side, I can assure you of my commitment to boosting the training and development of our staff to prepare, among others, the future directorate succession plan for the Department.



Raymond Wong
Commissioner



Commissioner Raymond Wong being briefed by officers of the Cargo Research Division of the Ship Search and Cargo Command on the selection process of containerised cargo.



The Commissioner having a friendly chat with officers of the Special Task Force.

WCO Council Sessions in Brussels

The World Customs Organization (WCO) held the 45th Session of the Policy Commission and the 97th/98th Council Sessions at its Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium in June 2001. All 24 Policy Commission Members attended the Policy Commission Session from June 25 to 27. A total of 128 out of 156 WCO Member delegations attended the Council Sessions from June 28 to 30.

Former Commissioner Mr John C Tsang was invited to preside the meetings in the capacity of the Acting Chairman. Assistant Commissioner Wong Sau-pui leading the Hong Kong delegation, comprising Senior Superintendent Chow Kwong and Acting Superintendent Lui Kin-hung, attended the meetings as the Vice-Chairman for the Asia Pacific Region.

The Council elected Mr Parvin Gordhan of South Africa as the Council Chairman and Mr Kunio Mikuriya of Japan the Deputy Secretary General.

Hong Kong was re-elected WCO Vice-Chairman for the Asia Pacific Region for a second term and will serve until June 2002.

At the meetings, members reviewed the financial situation and the work of the committees of the WCO. They discussed topical Customs issues and Customs strategy at global level and endorsed future work plans for the WCO.

Members also discussed the request of the European Commission to revise the Convention establishing the Customs Co-operation Council to facilitate her in becoming a Member. However, no consensus was reached. In addition, members considered the list of events in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the WCO in 2002.

World Customs Organization Group



Former Commissioner Mr John C Tsang chairing the 97th/98th Council Sessions of the WCO Council in Brussels.

Hong Kong Customs, in support of the World Customs Organization's (WCO) initiative for protection of intellectual property rights (IPR), hosted the Seminar on IPR protection for the WCO Asia Pacific Region from July 17 to 20, 2001.

Officiating at the opening ceremony on July 17, Commissioner Raymond Wong said that Hong Kong's success in IPR enforcement won high regards around the world. In sharing the experience of Hong Kong Customs in IPR enforcement, he emphasised the importance of strategic partnership between Customs and the intellectual property (IP) industry as a key element of success, in addition to the vigorous enforcement action and stringent legal framework.

The four-day Seminar was a joint Customs/Business training programme. Its aim was to promote partnership between Customs and the IP industry with a view to

enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of IPR enforcement in the region.

Over 60 participants, including Customs officials responsible for IPR enforcement function in the region and business experts representing the IP industry worldwide, took part in the Seminar. It was one of the biggest regional Customs event in the recent years. Twenty-three out of the 25 WCO Member administrations in the Asia Pacific Region attended the Seminar.

This was the second time Hong Kong Customs hosted the WCO Regional IPR Seminar. The last Seminar was held in 1996. In recognition of Hong Kong's success as a centre of excellence in IPR enforcement, the WCO invited Hong Kong Customs to co-host the Seminar again this year.

Seminar speakers were invited from the WCO, WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) for Asia and Pacific, Member

administrations of the WCO Asia Pacific Region, and the IP industry worldwide. Senior Superintendent William Chow, Acting Superintendent Ben Ho and Assistant Superintendent David Fong of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau were among the Customs experts speaking in the Seminar.

World Customs Organization Group

Participants of the Seminar on IPR Protection for the WCO Asia Pacific Region.



Third Plenary of Financial Action Task Force

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an independent international body set up to develop and promote policies, both at domestic and international levels, to combat money laundering. Its Secretariat is housed at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

Hong Kong was elected President of XIII Round. The Commissioner for Narcotics, Mrs Clarie Lo, has taken up the presidency since July 1, 2001.

FATF has been established since 1989. It began its XIII round this July. At present, FATF has a membership of 29 jurisdictions, including Hong Kong and two international organisations (the European Commission and Gulf Co-operation Council).

To prepare for taking up the presidency and show Hong Kong's keen participation in FATF matters, Mrs Lo led a well-represented delegation to attend the Third Plenary of FATF-XII. Officers from the Narcotics Division, the Department of Justice, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Police and Customs took part to provide support to the delegation.

I was selected by the Department to join the delegation and attended margin meetings on June 18 and 19. On the evening of June 19, delegation members briefed Mrs Lo on the gist of the margin meetings. Our delegation attended the plenary from June 20 to 22.

Assistant Superintendent Sunny Ho Sang-lee
International Financial Investigation Division

DEA officials visit Hong Kong

A delegation of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the US Department of Justice, comprising the new Director of International Operations, Mr Michael S Vigil, his Special Assistant, Mr Thomas R Cannon and the Chief of Far East Section, Mr Robert P Jones visited Customs Drug Investigation Bureau (CDIB) on June 26, 2001. Information and views on the drug trafficking trends and strategies on enforcement were discussed and exchanged during the visit.

Mr Robert P Jones has been a close working partner of CDIB. He assumed the post of Narcotics Attaché, Hong Kong Country Office between May 1996 and July 1999. The visit marked his last official trip to Hong Kong as he was due to retire in August 2001 after serving in DEA for 33 years. To show our courtesy, Assistant Commissioner David Tong, together with Senior Superintendent Man Wing-yiu and three Superintendents of CDIB, hosted a dinner for the visitors.

Customs Drug Investigation Bureau



△ Assistant Commissioner David Tong (front row centre) with Mr Michael S Vigil sitting on his right and Mr Robert P Jones on his left.

No Chemicals, No Drugs

Acting Superintendent Cheung Chi-kwong and Assistant Superintendent Chan Wing-kin of the Controlled Chemicals Group attended the First Far East Regional Precursor Chemical Conference held in Hong Kong between July 10 and 12, 2001.

The Conference, organised by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the US Department of Justice, was aimed at strengthening the knowledge on the controlling mechanism of precursor chemicals and sharing enforcement experience among the participants. Having recognised our comprehensive legal framework and effective control system, the organiser arranged the Hong Kong Customs to be the first participant to present the situation report on precursor chemicals control.

Given the global concern of the upsurge of abuse in amphetamine type stimulants (ATS), such as ecstasy, in the past years, the Conference focused on how to control the related precursor chemicals.

All participants recognised the philosophy of "No Chemicals, No Drugs" and the importance of international co-operation in suppressing illicit chemicals diversion.

Controlled Chemicals Group



△ Assistant Superintendent Chan Wing-kin presenting "The situation report of HKSAR on precursor chemicals control" at the First Far East Regional Precursor Chemical Conference.

Seminar on Copyright Enforcement

The success of Hong Kong Customs in containing the copyright piracy problem has won the recognition of other Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific Region. Acting Superintendent Ben Ho of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau was invited to deliver a talk at the Copyright Enforcement Seminar, a training event organised by the Motion Picture Association on June 18, 2001 for the enforcement agencies in Malaysia, including the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, and the Royal Malaysia Police.

The Seminar was an excellent opportunity for the Department to share her experience in combating all forms of copyright piracy in Hong Kong over the years.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau



△ Acting Superintendent Ben Ho Kai-bai giving a presentation at the Motion Picture Association's Copyright Enforcement Seminar held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

To enable our officers to have a better understanding on Customs benchmarking, the Management Support Team (MST) invited two UK Customs officers, Mr Keith Day and Mr Dick Sloman to talk at a seminar on International Customs Benchmarking during their visit to Hong Kong in May. A total of 28 officers participated in the seminar.

Benchmarking is a research and analysis tool for identifying the best practices. Over the years, the UK Customs has built up a benchmarking network comprising 16 Customs administrations. The Department, having considered the benefits of sharing experience of the best practices and the opportunities of fostering better working relationship with member administrations, joined the network. The Senior Staff Officer of MST has been designated as the liaison officer on the benchmarking matters.

Management Support Team



Two UK Customs officers attending the Seminar on International Customs Benchmarking in Hong Kong.

Control of Brokerage of Weapons of Mass Destruction training course

Between March 26 and April 6, 2001, I and Senior Inspector Wong Yun-fat attended a training course on the Control of Brokerage of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the US. The course was jointly organised by the US Department of Defense, the US Customs Service and the US Department of Energy (DOE).

The primary objective of the course is to train the participants to detect, identify, interdict and investigate all aspects of smuggling activities related to the proliferation and diversion of materials, commodities and components associated with the development or deployment of all weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological weapons) and their associated missile delivery system.

The training course comprised two parts. The first part included visits to Airport and Seaport in Los Angeles and two land ports at the US/Mexico border to see the operation of the US Customs Service. The second part of the course was a training programme on detection, identification, interdiction and investigation of weapons of mass destruction held in the Washington State.

We found the training course very useful as it has enriched our knowledge on the subject.

Chan Ka-yiu
Senior Trade Controls Officer



Participants of the Control of Brokerage of Weapons of Mass Destruction training course.

International Exchange Programme

Subsequent to the French Customs visit to our Department in March 2001, Acting Superintendent Tong Wai-man and Acting Senior Inspector Tam Pik-ling paid a reciprocal visit to the French Customs Administration between May 28 and June 1, 2001.

The visit offered Customs officials of both administrations an opportunity to share their experience on excise control; liquor valuation and verification methods; warehousing system and wine business. It further strengthened the ties between the two administrations on excise control.

Not to mention the immense knowledge gained from the visit, the two officers had a wonderful experience in visiting distilleries in the Region of Cognac - a place full of the scents

of France's legendary past. They learnt the variety of grapes, the wine making process, the classification of cognac and knowledge on wine tasting.

Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration

Hong Kong and French Customs officials sharing their experiences on excise control work.



At the launching ceremony of its new Hong Kong office held on July 5, 2001, Warner Home Video praised the significant achievements of Hong Kong Customs in fighting copyright piracy in the territory. The setting up of a local distribution affiliate by the company truly reflects its confidence in the Hong Kong Government's determination in eradicating copyright piracy.

"Our ability to open this subsidiary is a direct reflection of the success of Hong Kong Customs and Excise vigorous efforts to suppress piracy in Hong Kong," said Ms Molly E Kellogg, Vice President (Anti-Piracy and New Market Development) of Warner Home Video Asia.

Speaking at the ceremony, Head of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau William Chow underlined the importance of a strong Customs-Trade partnership in combating copyright piracy.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau



△ (From Right) Head of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau (IPIB) William Chow, Mr Francis Yam of Warner Home Video, Mr Woody Tsung of the Motion Picture Industry Association and Acting Superintendent of IPIB Ben Ho at the launching ceremony.

Customs commended for swift operation

While most people were enjoying their Easter holidays, officers of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau were busy planning for a two-day operation targeting nine retail shops selling counterfeit "Levi's" products. On April 13 and 14, the targeted shops were raided with a seizure of more than 5 400 pieces of counterfeit goods, value exceeding \$778,000. Four men and nine women were also arrested.

In extending its appreciation to the Department for our swift and professional operation, Levi's Strauss presented a plaque to Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon Yeung-kwong on May 9, 2001.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau



△ Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon Yeung-kwong receiving a plaque from Miss Kitty Yung of Levi's.

Enter the Challenge

In June 2001, I attended the "Intelligence Analysis for Law Enforcement" Course organised by the International Law Enforcement Academy. Basic but practical intelligence analysis techniques were introduced during the two-week course which was manned by trainers from the US Customs Services and the Drug Enforcement Administration. A total of 24 participants from 11 countries and regions attended the course.

During the course, we managed to fortify our concepts and develop our companionship through debate and

discussion in the open forum. Trainers and participants were fully involved and knowledge was acquired through the friendly atmosphere.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Department for giving me the opportunity to obtain such valuable experience in my career.

Vincent Wong Sui-hang
Senior Inspector
Control Points Command

Senior Inspector Vincent Wong Sui-hang (second from left) and participants of the "Intelligence Analysis for Law Enforcement" Course.



"Let me introduce to all of you - 'Zebedee' and 'Merry', our proactive and passive-alert drug detector dogs.....". The amusing dog show marked the prelude to the field visit by 20 judges to the Airport Command on June 2, 2001. The guests were led by Vice-President of the Court of Appeal of the High Court, the Honourable Mr Justice Stuart-Moore.

This is the second visit organised by the Airport Command for the Judiciary. The purpose of the visit is to brief the judges on our operation so as to enable them to make proper reference when adjudicating Customs cases.

Following the dog performance, the judges visited various Customs workstations at Super Terminal One, Air Mail Centre, and the Passenger Terminal Building in order to deepen their understanding on the work of our frontline officers.

The visit certainly helps promote mutual understanding between the two departments.

Airport Command



△ Staff of Airport Command pictured with guests.

D of J officials attend scene of crime

A smuggling case does not end up with record seizure and arrest. Our officers in charge of the case have to work hand-in-hand with Department of Justice (D of J) officials to secure conviction of the cunning smugglers.

Officers of the Joint Task Force (JTF) of the Marine and Land Enforcement Command made arrangements with the Marine Police for Senior Assistant Director of Public Prosecution Miss Maria Ip, Senior Government Counsel Mr Sharman Lam and Government Counsel Mr

W T Chiu attended scenes of smuggling crimes at the Northeast waters of Hong Kong on July 21, 2001. The objective was to reconstruct two significant smuggling cases and study the modus operandi of the smugglers.

Although the sea was so rough on that day, it did not dim Miss Ip's enthusiasm in our work. The D of J officials were briefed about the black spots of smuggling activities as well as our anti-smuggling strategies. Traditionally, officer in charge of a case would present a case to D of J officials in writing for legal advice. It was innovative for D of J officials to have face-to-face interaction with us.

Police officers attending the function said the site visit was beneficial to them. They were able to grasp the essence in gathering evidence and detecting smuggling offences from the legal professionals' point of view.

Senior Inspector Gryphon Sou
Police/Customs Anti-Smuggling Task Force
Marine and Land Enforcement Command



△ (From right) Senior Inspector Mr Mike G of Police's Small Boat Unit, Government Counsel Mr W T Chiu, Senior Inspector Mr Ng Yan-fat of the Marine North Division of Police, Senior Assistant Director of Public Prosecution Miss Maria Ip, Senior Government Counsel Mr Sharman Lam, Customs Officer Lee Kwong-ming, Inspector Leung Yiu-cheung and Senior Inspector Gryphon Sou.

Anti-Smuggling Business Partnership Conference

The First World Business Anti-Smuggling Coalition (BASC) and Business Partnership Conference was held in Columbia between May 15 and 17. With an objective to acquire more information on BASC so as to assess the feasibility of implementing the programme in Hong Kong and the Asia Pacific Region, I attended the Conference on behalf of the Department.

The conference was organised by the BASC Colombia in co-operation with US Customs, World Customs Organization, French Customs and other BASC chapters with more than 400 participants.

BASC is a business-led, Customs-supported alliance created to combat narcotics smuggling in legitimate commercial shipments. Currently there are over 500 companies throughout the US, Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Venezuela and Columbia participating in BASC. Participants set self-imposed standards on security that will significantly deter narcotics traffickers.

Acting Superintendent Chow Chi-kwong

Development established

Upon the re-organisation of the Office of Service Administration and Training, the Office of Training and Development (OTD) was established on June 18, 2001.

OTD comprises the Customs and Excise Training School, the Training Administration and Trade Controls Training Division, the Training Development Group and the Training Consultation and Coordination Section. It is headed by a Senior Superintendent with an establishment of 81 posts to assume the overall responsibility of the training and development work of both the Service and the Trade Controls Officer Grade.

OTD is also responsible for formulating and implementing training and development policies and strategic plans; maintaining close liaison with Heads of Major Formations to review the quality of the training courses; conducting training needs analysis; and providing necessary support to major formations for on-the-job training.

Office of Training and Development

set up

The Staff Relations Group (SRG) was set up on June 18, 2001 as a result of the re-organisation of the Office of Service Administration and Training. The purpose of the re-organisation is to strengthen the Department's human resources management and development functions.

The SRG, which is under the Office of Service Administration, is responsible for handling staff relation matters and providing welfare service to all staff members of the Department. It has three units: Staff Relations and Welfare, Sports and Recreation, and Quarters.

The SRG, headed by a Superintendent, has a total of 16 officers from the Service, the General Grade, the Trade Controls Branch and one Recreation and Sport Officer seconded from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The SRG is committed to providing quality welfare services and effective handling of staff relation matters to all colleagues.

Staff Relations Group

Seminar on manufacture of stampers

To strengthen the enforcement action against copyright piracy in Hong Kong, the Government plans to include the manufacture of stampers in the licensing control regime under the Prevention of Copyright Piracy Ordinance. The Commerce and Industry Bureau and Customs jointly organised a seminar at the Senior Officers' Mess on June 21, 2001 to brief the industry about the licensing conditions and the marking standards.

The seminar was chaired by Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Industry Miss Laura Tsoi and Head of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau William Chow. The Deputy Regional Anti-Piracy Enforcement Co-ordinator of the IFPI, Mr Rodney Tsui, also attended as a guest speaker. A total of 52 participants, including trade associations of the optical disc industry and local stamper manufacturers attended the seminar.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau



Speakers briefing the industry on the proposed licensing scheme for the manufacture of stampers.

Days in the RTTD Special Unit

"Sir, Sir, Yan..... Yan Call.....Calling! A.....A towed vessel is..... is approaching the.....the pier. Al.....Also, two light goods vehicles ar.....are driven towards the vessel, as.....as if to..... to collect something."

"Oh! The drivers alight from the vehicles and open the boot. The guys on the vessel are unloading some cartons!"

"Attention everybody, HIT!"

I was worried when I knew that I would be posted to the Special Unit of the River Trade Terminal Division. I wonder if I could adapt to the new working environment as I had been working as a Duty Officer for three years.

I remember that it was midnight when I reported for duty. I

was deployed to mount an observation at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market with two colleagues. It was cold that night and I was afraid of the dark surrounding. Suddenly, a towed vessel appeared and headed towards the pier at a very slow speed. At the same time, two light goods vehicles were driven to the vessel. I reported to the field commander through my radio transceiver immediately. Although I could hardly speak smoothly owing to my nervousness, my colleagues responded quickly and ran towards the vessel. As a result, we smashed a cigarette smuggling syndicate.

I can now manage to conduct observation efficiently. The days in the Special Unit have not only strengthened my character, but also broadened my horizon.

Special Unit, River Trade Terminal Division
Ship Search and Cargo Command

The Customs website has got a facelift in July after a revamp exercise. It is now more user-friendly, informative and easy surfing than its first launch in March 1998.

New features

The new design of the website enables visitors to access the Department's information more easily by introducing the new topics - "What's New", "Site Map", "FAQ" and the search function. Members of the public can even download e-Forms for applying various licences and permits through electronic means. In line with the Government policy, new functions are equipped to facilitate accessibility by visually impaired persons.

You are welcome to visit the Department's website at <http://www.info.gov.hk/customs/>.



△ New face of Customs website.

Office of Information Technology

One-stop cargo clearance service

Hong Kong Customs is fully committed to building and maintaining a strategic partnership with the cargo industry so as to reinforce Hong Kong's status as an international cargo hub. To meet the objective, operational procedures for facilitating intermodal transshipment cargo are developed. Under such concept, the Department is providing a "one-stop" cargo clearance service to air-to-land cargo using the "SuperLink China Direct" service newly launched by HACTL.

"SuperLink China Direct" is a cargo forwarding service for air cargo on transshipment from other countries to the Mainland through Hong Kong. Sealed trucking service is used to transfer air cargo from the Hong Kong International Airport to Guangzhou's Baiyun Airport via Lok Ma Chau.

To provide first class clearance service, officers of Airport Command and Control Points Command work hand in hand. Under the arrangement, Airport Command officers conduct clearance when cargoes arrive at the airport. After clearance, shipping seal is affixed to the truck compartment

under Customs supervision. Upon exportation of the goods via Lok Ma Chau, the seal is checked by officers of Control Points Command. In the absence of other intelligence, re-examination of the goods is not required if the seal is found intact. It thus achieves the purpose of "one-stop" service.

Such clearance arrangements will soon be extended to the land-to-air cargo. Besides, a study on the application of electronic seal to transshipment consignment to prevent illegal diversion during its passage from the point of entry to the point of exit is being conducted.

Airport Command

Customs officers providing "one-stop" service to intermodal transshipment cargo.



Revised Service Standing Orders distributed

The revised Customs and Excise Service Standing Orders - English Version (CESSO) have come into operation on June 18, 2001.

The CESSO contain 39 chapters and are grouped into four parts, namely Preliminary (Part I), Administration (Part II), Operations (Part III) and Miscellaneous (Part IV). In addition, there are 35 Standing Procedures supplementing the related chapters of the CESSO. The CESSO provide a one-go reference for our officers in the execution of Customs duties.

More than 850 CD-Roms and 200 hard copies of the CESSO have already been distributed to officers holding the rank of Inspector or above.

All Customs Officer grade officers will be provided with a copy of the Chinese Version when the translation work is completed.

Orders and Procedures Group
Office of Management Services



△ Hard copies and CD-Rom of the revised Customs and Excise Service Standing Orders - English Version.