



Customs News

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Greetings from the Commissioner

With the festival season just around the corner, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best Wishes.

Raymond Wong
Commissioner



CE presents medals to Customs officers

The Chief Executive, Mr Tung Chee Hwa presented medals to seven Customs officers at a commendation presentation ceremony at Government House on October 13, 2001.

Senior Superintendents Ho Siu-chung and Chan Hon-kit, Superintendents Pang Lock-yuen and Chan Chun-wai and Assistant Superintendent Lo Ying-kuen were awarded the Customs and Excise Medals for Distinguished and Meritorious Service.

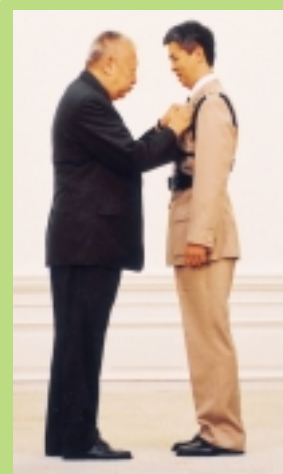
Principal Trade Controls Officer John Lam Hing-yan was awarded the Medal of Honour while Senior Customs Officer Lam Kin-yee received the Chief Executive's Commendation for Public Service.

Information Unit

* SS Chan Hon-kit was unable to attend the presentation.



△ S Pang Lock-yuen



△ SS Ho Siu-chung



△ S Chan Chun-wai



△ AS Lo Ying-kuen



△ PTCO John Lam Hing-yan



△ SCO Lam Kin-yee

APEC meetings in Shanghai

Commissioner Raymond Wong Hung-chiu, Assistant Commissioner Lawrence Wong Sau-pui and Superintendent Sam Lui Kin-hung flew to Shanghai on August 12, 2001 to attend a series of conferences organised by China Customs under the purview of APEC.

The APEC Customs-Business Dialogue, which took place on August 13 and 14, was the first activity of the trip. The Dialogue is a traditional event of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP). It aims at promoting Customs-Business co-operation through direct dialogue. The theme of this year Dialogue is "The New Economy - Moving Customs-Business Partnership and Trade Facilitation to the Next Level".

A total of 560 participants from both APEC Customs administrations and the business community attended the Dialogue. As a key speaker, Assistant Commissioner Lawrence Wong Sau-pui gave a presentation on "Strategic Partnership between Customs and Business - Meeting Challenges in the New Economy". His presentation was well received and stimulated active participation of the Dialogue participants.

Assistant Commissioner Lawrence Wong Sau-pui chaired the SCCP Trade Facilitation Working Group Meeting on August 16.

The greatest achievement that Hong Kong Customs had made in this tour was the successful presentation to the SCCP on a proposed project called "Customs-Business Partnership". The project aims to enhance APEC Customs members' co-operation and communication strategies with the business sector. In the next three years, Hong Kong Customs will lead this collective action by promoting the establishment of co-operative programmes and liaison channels between APEC Customs administrations and their business partners.

World Customs Organization Group



△ (From Left) Assistant Commissioner Lawrence Wong, Commissioner Raymond Wong and Superintendent Sam Lui attending the APEC Customs-Business Dialogue.

Australia/HK Bilateral Talks

The Fifth Customs-to-Customs Talks between Australia and Hong Kong was held in Hong Kong from September 10 to 11, 2001. Chief Executive Officer of Australian Customs Service Mr Lionel Woodward led a delegation of five to attend the Talks. The meeting was chaired by Commissioner Raymond Wong.

The bilateral event is held biennially and hosted by either administration alternatively. The purpose of the Talks is to enhance co-operation and exchange experiences.

At the bilateral event, the two delegations updated each

other on the recent development of both administrations. Items of mutual interest including transnational crimes, human smuggling, drug trafficking and new technological development were discussed in the meeting.

Apart from the meeting sessions, a half-day visit programme was organised for the Australian delegation, including visit to the Customs establishments at the Hong Kong International Airport and Kwai Chung Container Terminal.

Customs Intelligence and Liaison Bureau



◁ Commissioner Raymond Wong (third from left) and the Australian Customs Service Chief Executive Officer Mr Lionel Woodward (second from right) attending the Talk.

New Zealand and HK Customs hold Co-operation Conference

The Fourth Customs Co-operation Conference between New Zealand and Hong Kong was held in Hong Kong from October 23 to 24, 2001. The Conference was held biennially under the provisions of the Co-operative Arrangement between the two Customs administrations signed in 1991.

Mr Robin Dare, Comptroller of New Zealand Customs Service led a four-member delegation to attend the Conference. Commissioner Raymond Wong led the Hong Kong delegation and chaired the Conference.

During the Conference, Mr Dare and Mr Wong reaffirmed the co-operation between the two administrations. Both parties agreed to continue to co-operate and to enhance information exchange on matters of mutual concern. In particular, it was agreed that the New Zealand Customs Service and the Hong Kong Customs would continue to exchange information on topical issues; to explore further training opportunities and organise bilateral visits; to update each other on the latest developments in legislation; modernisation and reform programmes; and to foster co-operation

between Customs and industries in combating smuggling and any other transnational crimes.

Customs Intelligence and Liaison Bureau



△ The participants of the Fourth Customs Co-operation Conference between New Zealand and Hong Kong.

Customs Co-operation Conference held in Seoul

Commissioner Raymond Wong led a Hong Kong Customs delegation to Seoul to attend the 22nd Customs Co-operation Conference between Hong Kong Customs and Korea Customs from October 8 to 12, 2001.

At the Conference, both sides had thorough discussions on issues of mutual interests. Apart from agreeing to enhance co-operation between the Incheon International Airport and the Hong Kong International Airport, both parties would continue to collaborate on combating drug trafficking. It was also agreed that the exchange of intelligence on intellectual property rights crimes; experience sharing on developing customs-related IT programmes; the container inspection system; and provision of investigation training programmes for officers of the Korea Customs Service should be continued and further enhanced.

Ng Kok-hung
Office of Information Technology



△ Commissioner Raymond Wong, Commissioner of Korea Customs Service Mr Yoon Jin-sik (front row right) and other participants of the 22nd Customs Co-operation Conference.

ILEA Key Leaders Conference

I represented Hong Kong Customs to participate in the Key Leaders Conference hosted by the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok from August 14 to 16, 2001. The participants of the Conference were senior officials from South East Asian countries who are responsible for training and nomination of ILEA course participants.

At the dinner reception on the first day of arrival, I met Course Director Mr John Driscoll as well as other ILEA staff and representatives from other countries.

During the meeting on the second day, presentations and

discussions were held between representatives on topical issues, including ILEA Vision; Progress Report; Programme Evaluation, core programme status and specialised program status; and the Senior Criminal Justice Executive Programme.

I took the opportunity to visit the ILEA Bangkok Training Centre before flying back to Hong Kong.

Patrick Pang Lock-yuen
Deputy Commandant
Customs and Excise Training School

Copyright seminars in Harbin and Dailin

At the invitation of the National Anti-Piracy and Pornography Office, Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon Yeung-kwong and I attended a ceremony on destruction of pirated optical discs in Zhuhai on August 28, 2001. Witnessing the ceremony were senior law enforcement officials of relevant Mainland authorities, representatives from Hong Kong Customs, Macao Marine Police, intellectual property right industry and the US Consul-General to Guangzhou.

After the trip to Zhuhai, we participated in the seminars organised by the Motion Picture Association in Harbin to share our experience in anti-piracy work with our Chinese counterparts. It was the first time that Hong Kong Customs was invited to deliver speeches on IPR protection in Hong Kong to judges and judicial officers in the Mainland. The participants included the Chief Justice and the Deputy Chief Justice of the Intellectual Property Tribunal of the Supreme People's Court.

Apart from showing our determination in IPR protection and promoting the image of Hong Kong Customs in this trip, we are happy to have fostered friendship with our Mainland counterparts.

Chan Yiu-wah
Group Head
Special Task Force



△ Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon Yeung-kwong (third from right) and other guests at the destruction of pirated optical discs ceremony.

Drug Law Enforcement Agencies Meeting

Head of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau Man Wing-yiu participated in the 25th Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) of Asia and Pacific in Sydney from October 15 to 18, 2001.

The HONLEA is an international forum organised annually by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to review the regional trends of drug production, trafficking and drug-related crimes; to examine enforcement issues on drug and precursor chemicals control and money laundering; and to make recommendations on law enforcement matters to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

This year's meeting was hosted by the Australian Federal Police and was attended by 100 delegates, including representatives from the 30 member countries and 15 observers from countries of other regions and international organisations.

Matters discussed included illicit trafficking in heroin and other amphetamine-type-stimulants, control of precursor chemicals and international co-operation on the exchange of intelligence.

Customs Drug Investigation Bureau

Training Courses for Macao Customs

The Higher Training Division organised two training courses on May 17 to 19 and August 16 and 17, 2001 respectively in Macao for officers of the Macao Marine Police and Customs. Twenty-Four participants attended the "Interview Techniques Course" while the "Raiding Techniques Course" was attended by 20 officers.

The two courses involving both theories and practical exercises were tailor-made for our Macao counterparts.

Office of Training and Development



△ The Commissioner of Macao Marine Police and Customs, Mr Choi Lai Hang (right), presenting a souvenir to Senior Inspector Lui Tze-cheuk.

Commissioner visits Airport Command

Commissioner Raymond Wong visited the Airport Command on September 27 to see for himself the work and operation of the Command in the provision of clearance services to facilitate legitimate passenger and cargo traffic and in maintaining adequate control against the smuggling of contrabands.

Following a briefing session on the facilities and major projects of Airport Command, the Commissioner visited various workstations at the Passenger Terminal Building, Super Terminal One and the Marine Cargo Terminal. In order to enable the Commissioner to know more about the work of frontline officers, demonstrations on the operation of the Air Cargo Clearance System and the drug detector dogs were conducted.

This half-day visit was concluded following a tour of various Customs terminals.

Airport Command



△ Commissioner Raymond Wong watching the demonstration on the functioning of the Air Cargo Clearance System.

Customs wins Helping Business Awards

Helping Business Awards Scheme 2001 (HBAS) is an annual event organised by the Business and Services Promotion Unit of the Commerce and Industry Bureau. Its objective is to encourage Government departments to help business sector and promote a culture of helping business within the civil service.

The Customs was selected as one of the winners of HBAS 2001 in respect of the two initiatives taken by the Airport Command (APC) and the Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration (ODCA) under Category "Today" and Category "Tomorrow" respectively.

The Category "Today" recognises the devotion committed by APC since January 2000 on the provision of improved air cargo customs clearance service while the Category "Tomorrow" recognise the Open Bond System undertaken by ODCA have the greatest potential impact on the business community.

The Secretary for Commerce and Industry, Mr Chau Tak Hay, officiated at the presentation ceremony on September 24 in which two trophies and cash cheques were awarded to the Department.

Airport Command and
Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration



△ Representatives of Airport Command receiving the cheque in the presentation ceremony.

Commendation Presentation

A Presentation Ceremony for Commendation Certificates was held on September 28 at the Senior Officers' Mess. Three Deputy Commissioner's Commendations, 76 Assistant Commissioners' Commendations, four Senior Principal Trade Controls Officer's Commendations and one Customs Civil Secretary's Commendation were presented to 84 officers.

Office of Service Administration



△ Deputy Commissioner Raymond Li Wai-man presenting Deputy Commissioner's Commendation to Senior Inspector Lee Hon-wah.

A life-long learner

Having engaged in part-time studies and action research for about three years, Senior Inspector Gryphon Sou eventually got the highest academic award. On September 22, 2001, he was conferred a Doctor of Management Degree by the Southern Cross University of Australia.

Mr Sou joined the Department in 1987 as an Assistant Trade Controls Officer. In 1989, he enrolled in the Service as an Inspector. Being a Service member at supervisory level, he found that there was a genuine need to equip himself by further studies at post-graduate level. Despite tight working schedules and irregular working hours, Mr Sou started his study plan in 1993. In 1995, he received a Master Degree from Australian Catholic University. In 1999, he commenced an action-learning programme leading to a Doctoral degree. With the approval of former Commissioner Mr John C Tsang, he embarked on an action research within the Department. After two years of painstaking research, Mr Sou completed his dissertation *"An Examination of a Performance Management System of Customs and Excise Service in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region"*.

He successfully defended his dissertation before the academic board and passed the doctoral programme with credit. He will always remember all those people who rendered assistance to him.

To this end, he wishes to take the opportunity to express his gratitude to the management as well as the Chairpersons of the



◁ Senior Inspector Gryphon Sou attending the multi-national congregation in Canada.

two Customs' staff unions for the support and stimulation they offered. Besides, his sincere thanks are due to the senior management and staff of the Department, who had been generous enough to supply him with data for analysis.

Mr Sou said the track of life learning may be really painful but it is ultimately rewarding. Not only does it enrich one's knowledge and enhance one's image, it can also contribute to the organisational betterment of the HKSAR Government.

Anti-Smuggling Task Force
Marine and Land Enforcement Command

Ombudsman Award 2001

Customs Officer Lee Chun-hing and Assistant Superintendent Leung Shung-chi have been selected as recipients of the Ombudsman Awards 2001 for Officers of Public Organizations. We take this opportunity to offer the heartiest congratulations to them and to share with our colleagues the messages from the two recipients.

Customs Officer Lee Chun-hing

When I learnt that I was one of the winners of this year's Ombudsman Award for Officers of Public Organizations, I felt honoured and excited. The prize awarded for my service in attending the Customs Hotline came as a pleasant surprise because many of my team members performed excellently alike. My winning may be accountable to luck but at the same time it recognises the performance of all hotline operators of the Investigation Support Duty Office (ISDO) of the Customs Intelligence and Liaison Bureau.

Manning the hotline proved to be a mixed bag of pleasure and gloom. Attitudes of the public reporting information through the hotline varied: some were courteous and detailed; some were infuriated; while a few might just utter some irritating remarks over the phone then hung up brusquely. In encountering difficult people, we sometimes would inevitably feel angry and depressed indeed. But, as frontline members of the Service, we have to stand fast in upkeeping our performance pledges and deal with those haughty callers with courtesy and dignity. Sometimes, we are encouraged by the compliments we received from the public for our good performance.

Assistant Superintendent Leung Shung-chi

Civil servants should serve the public with open mind, innovative mindset and unwearied patience. To ensure quality services, we should always get things done, heed public concern, thoroughly explain policies and be always considerate.

Customs News Editorial Team



△ Customs Officer Lee Chun-hing (left) receiving the award from The Ombudsman Ms Alice Tai.

Mobile X-ray Vehicle Scanning System detected first smuggling case

Shortly after it came into operation on August 15, 2001, the \$21-million worth Mobile X-ray Vehicle Scanning System made its first seizure during a cargo examination operation at the Kwai Chung Customs and Excise Cargo Examination Compound on August 21, 2001.

A 20-foot container, imported from Malaysia and declared to have contained kitchenware, was scanned by the system. From the X-ray images displayed on the screen, our officers suspected that cartons of cigarettes were loaded inside the container. As a result of examination, four-million cigarettes valued at \$5.8 million.

Ship Search and Cargo Command



△ The dutiable cigarettes seized by officers of the Ship Search and Cargo Command with the aid of the Mobile X-ray Vehicle Scanning System

"One-Stop-Shop" trial run at Lok Ma Chau

To further enhance the clearance efficiency of cross-boundary goods vehicles with the geographical constraint at the control points, the Customs, together with the Immigration Department, launched the trial scheme of "One-Stop-Shop" arrangement at Lok Ma Chau Control Point on October 1, 2001.

Previously, each lane at the land boundary control points has one Immigration kiosk and one Customs kiosk, drivers have to stop twice at the kiosks to complete the clearance procedures.

Under the "One-Stop-Shop" arrangement, the Customs and Immigration kiosks are combined whereby Customs and Immigration Officers are sitting side-by-side to conduct customs and immigration clearance for vehicles at the same time.

Cross-boundary drivers using the two designated lanes could present their Hong Kong Identity Cards or travelling documents and cargo manifests to Immigration and Customs officers respectively at the combined kiosks for simultaneous processing.

If it is fully implemented, it will greatly facilitate cross-boundary cargo movement and improve the traffic condition in roads leading to the land boundary control points.

Control Points Command

Airport Command procures search system

One of the main duties of officers under the Airport Apron Division of Airport Command is to exercise Customs control on vehicles and airport staff leaving the Airport Restricted Area through the four Customs Gatehouses. A daily average of approximately 1 480 vehicles and 1 300 airport staff leaving the airport through these gatehouses.

In June 2001, Airport Command procured three sets of Search System with Video Aids to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of examination on selected vehicles. This is a highly mobile search system consisting of a positioning camera head which can pan 180 degrees; an extendible probe (from two metres to seven metres) made of high strength aluminum; and a control unit with a LCD monitor.

By putting the probe under the selected vehicles and positioning the camera on the control unit, officers can easily get a full and clear picture of the vehicle's bottom from the LCD monitor. The search system also enables officers to conduct in-depth search of the cargo hold of lorries, such as catering trucks, without moving the cargoes inside which will reduce the opportunity for officers being injured during the course of duties.

Airport Command



△ Officers of Airport Command using the Search System with Video Aids to search a catering truck

Customer Liaison Group appoints members

Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon Yeung-kwong presented certificates of appointment to the non-official members of the Sea Cargo Customer Liaison Group (SCCLG) for the year 2001 to 2003 at the Kwai Chung Customhouse's Mess on October 18, 2001.

The SCCLG was set up in 1994 to provide a regular channel of communication between Customs and the shipping industry in improving customs services relating to sea cargo clearance. In order to embrace wider representation of the shipping industry, the number of non-official members has been increased from 14 to 18 this year.

Ship Search and Cargo Command



△ Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon Yeung-kwong (front row fourth from left) and officers of the Ship Search and Cargo Command pictured with members of the Sixth Sea Cargo Customer Liaison Group.

New tests for Inspector Recruitment Exercise

After a recruitment freeze of over one year, the Department re-launches an open recruitment exercise for Inspectors on October 27, 2001. The Inspector vacancies were advertised in newspapers and on the homepages of the Department and the Government Information Centre. As expected, the response was overwhelming and by the close of the application deadline on November 12, a total of 6 893 applications have been received. Qualified applicants will be invited to attend a physical fitness test and a preliminary interview scheduled between December 2001 and February 2002.

New physical fitness test

As a result of a consultancy study conducted by Dr Stanley Hui Sai-chuen of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Department will introduce a new physical fitness test in the current recruitment exercise to replace the traditional requirements on height and weight. The new test will comprise the following four elements:

- * standing long jump: a test of leg power;
- * threading: a test of agility;
- * isometric strength: an all-round muscular strength test of arm strength, shoulder strength, leg strength and back strength; and
- * 800-metre run: a test for the combination of aerobic and anaerobic power.

Details of the new physical fitness test and the scoring system are available on the Department's homepage at <http://www.info.gov.hk/customs>.



New written test arrangement

The Office of Training and Development has obtained the support from the Civil Service Examination Unit (CSEU) of the Civil Service Bureau in setting the examination questions for the recruitment exercise. This new arrangement does not only allow the Department to make use of the expertise of CSEU in designing examination papers, but also enhances the impartiality of the examination arrangement. The written test is scheduled to be held in March 2002.

Office of Departmental Administration
Office of Training and Development

Customs commended by movie industry



△ Mr Chui Hin-wai of the Hong Kong Theatres Association presenting a plaque to Commissioner Raymond Wong.

In recognition of Hong Kong Customs' remarkable achievement in combating copyright piracy activities, the Motion Picture Association, the Hong Kong Theatre Association and the Motion Picture Association Asia Pacific Operations Office have jointly hosted a presentation ceremony at the Senior Officers' Mess to present souvenir plaques to Commissioner Raymond Wong on August 17, 2001.

At the ceremony, the Commissioner said that Customs' achievements in combating piracy were no fluke. Our success in IPR enforcement hinged on the efforts of all Customs officers, especially the front-line officers, whose professionalism and devotion to duty were indeed praiseworthy.

The Commissioner also thanked the IPR industry's support to the Department, including their assistance in verifying the authenticity of the seized articles and giving evidence in court.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau

Oil Industry Reward Scheme renews

To combat against illicit oil activities, Assistant Commissioner Simon Wong Shiu-ming signed the Oil Industry Reward Scheme agreement with the oil industry on October 9. The Scheme was effective for one year from October 10, 2001.

As in the past, the five oil companies, namely Caltex, CRPC, Esso, Mobil and Shell, have contributed a total amount of \$1 million to pay reward to persons who provide information leading to seizure and forfeiture of illicit fuels, and/or conviction of persons involved. The reward in each case ranges from \$3,000 to \$140,000.

Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration



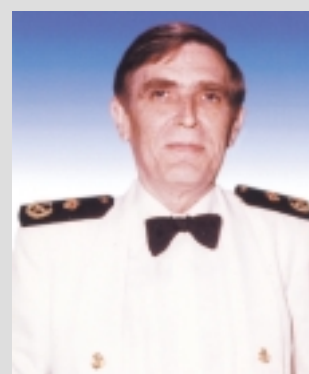
△ Assistant Commissioner Simon Wong Shiu-ming (centre) pictured with representatives of the oil industry.

Obituary - Former Deputy Commissioner Mr James Conley Prisk, ISO

The Editorial Board records with deep regret the death of former Deputy Commissioner Mr James Conley Prisk, ISO in the UK on October 13, 2001. Mr Prisk first joined the Prisons Department in 1956 and to the then Preventive Service as Revenue Inspector in 1957. He was promoted to Deputy Commissioner in 1985, the first Service member promoted to the rank. He retired in 1988 and settled in the UK. He died at the age of 69.

Mr Prisk always had a strong passion for Hong Kong Customs. He had maintained close contact with our colleagues after his retirement. He was proud of being a member of the Customs and Excise Service. To his wish, he was dressed in his beloved Customs Mess Kit, with boots and miniature medals, and buried in Camborne, Cornwall. We will miss a respectable ex-Deputy Commissioner.

Office of Service Administration



△ Former Deputy Commissioner Mr James Conley Prisk, ISO