



Message from Commissioner History and Innovation

On 8 September 2006, I led a 30-member delegation on board of a Customs launch to visit the Shenzhen Customs Office at Sanmen Dao (三門島). The purpose was to have an exchange on mid-way monitoring of small vessels at sea, and to discuss how to further strengthen our anti-smuggling co-operation. This was a historic visit by the Hong Kong Customs Launch Team. On arriving at the pier of Sanmen Dao, we received a warm welcome from the Director General of Shenzhen Customs District, Mr Zou Zhiwu (鄒志武關長).

After our official session on Customs matters, Director General Zou and I planted a tree on the island to signify our friendship and close co-operation. The crew members from both sides exchanged visits to each other's Customs launch, and then enjoyed playing in a friendly basketball match. The friendliness and warmth coming out of the programme turned a brand new page in the history of our bilateral co-operation. Both Customs administrations are clearly travelling side-by-side in a pragmatic fashion towards our mutual business goals.

Sanmen Dao

Sanmen Dao is located at the eastern waters of Shenzhen. Its east coast is close to Daya Wan, west coast close to Mirs Bay, and south coast faces the Pacific Ocean. The total area is about 5 square kilometres. The island is 8.7 nautical miles away from Hong Kong waters, facing Hong Kong Ninepin, Basalt Island watercourse

and the east exit of Victoria Harbour. It serves as the main course for coastal vessels from the eastern part of Guangdong, Fujian and Zhejiang sailing to and from Hong Kong and Macau. With its geographically strategic location, Sanmen Dao has been a strategic forward port and a military restricted area since the reign of Emperor Kangxi (康熙) of the Qing Dynasty.

The Shenzhen Customs established an office on the island with an aim to suppress smuggling activities in Guangdong and Hong Kong waters. It monitors small vessels sailing to and from Hong Kong and Macau. The original Customs establishment on Sanmen Dao dates back to the reign of Emperor Guangxu (光緒) of the Qing Dynasty. Sanmen Dao has witnessed the evolution and changes that have taken place for both Shenzhen and Hong Kong Customs over the past century.



Director General of Shenzhen Customs District of PRC, Mr Zou Zhiwu (right) presenting a souvenir to Commissioner Tong.

The Kowloon Customs

Hong Kong was occupied by Britain after the Opium War in the 19th century. Since Hong Kong was a major gateway to the Southern China, the smuggling of opium to the Mainland via Hong Kong was rampant. In 1886, the Chinese and British Governments signed the "Rules Governing the Control over Imported Drug of Hong Kong" (Imported Drug referred to Opium) after negotiation. In accordance with the Rules, the Qing Government established the Office of Chinese Maritime Customs (Kowloon District) on 2 April 1887 in Hong Kong for the collection of Duty and Likin on Opium and the prevention and detection of smuggling.

In 1898, the Chinese Government signed the "Convention Respecting an Extension of the Hong Kong Territory" with the British Government with Kowloon peninsula and nearby waters leased to Britain. Except the head office of the Office of Chinese Maritime Customs (Kowloon District) which remained within the territory of Hong Kong, all the other subordinate stations along the border were moved backward to the area of today's Dachan(大鑪), Yantian (鹽田) and Shataujiao (沙頭角). Subsequently, the Office of Chinese Maritime Customs (Kowloon District) set up Sanmen Customs Station in Sanmen Dao to undertake examination duties and collection of customs duty in respect of cargoes on board civilian vessels sailing between Hong Kong and ports along the east coast of Guangdong Province and Mirs Bay.



Commissioner Tong and Director General of Shenzhen Customs District, Mr Zou Zhiwu (front) planting the tree of friendship.

With the founding of New China in October 1949, the head office of the Office of Chinese Maritime Customs (Kowloon District) (九龍關) was moved back to Shenzhen. In January 1950, the Customs General Administration decided to rename the Office of Chinese Maritime Customs (Kowloon District) as "Kowloon Customs of the People's Republic of China". Following Hong Kong's reunification with the motherland in July 1997, the Kowloon Customs, which had close relation with Hong Kong history, changed its name into "Shenzhen Customs" (深圳關). This manifested to a full extent our country's solemn commitment in adhering to the concepts of "One Country, Two Systems" and "Hong Kong people running Hong Kong".

The Customs and Excise Department of Hong Kong

Hong Kong, on the opposite side of Shenzhen River, has seen unprecedented changes over the past century.

It has transformed itself from an obscure crude fishing village into a renowned world-class city, creating miracles in the history of global economic development. In response to the socio-economic changes, the Preventive Service (the former title of the Customs and Excise Department) was formally established in 1909 as a branch of the Import and Export Department for the protection of revenue. In 1949, the then Import and Export Department, together with the Supply, Trade and Industry Department, became the new Commerce and Industry Department. In 1977, the title of the Preventive Service was changed to the Customs and Excise Service which became an independent department on 1 August 1982.

Co-operation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong Customs

Although Shenzhen and Hong Kong Customs thrived under different social systems in the past century, we maintained a very close relationship. Since the reunification of Hong Kong with the motherland, the co-operation and connection between Shenzhen and Hong Kong Customs have fostered rapid development. Both Customs administrations play prominent roles in



The Hong Kong delegation having a friendly basketball match with their Shenzhen counterpart.

promoting the economic development and facilitating trade of Shenzhen and Hong Kong and are making concerted efforts to strive toward their common goals.

During the Sanmen Dao Talks, Director General Zou Zhiwu reviewed the achievements mutually attained by the two Customs administrations in recent years in various aspects, including vigorous enforcement against cross-border smuggling and drug trafficking, facilitation of Customs clearance, protection of intellectual property rights, as well as training and exchange programmes.

This year Shenzhen and Hong Kong so far have mounted more than 10 joint anti-smuggling operations, resulting in the seizure of 189 kg of drugs; and the smashing of 5 drug trafficking syndicates; and a strong blow against cross-border smuggling of chilled meat, illicit cigarettes and intellectual property rights infringing activities. Early this year, an operation jointly mounted by Hong Kong Customs, Shenzhen Customs and the Drug Enforcement Administration of the US Department of Justice cracked a Colombia-based drug trafficking syndicate, resulting in the arrest of 9 persons and the seizure of cocaine with a total value of HK\$105 million.

For the facilitation of Customs clearance, both Shenzhen and Hong Kong Customs have adopted the Unified Road Cargo Manifest, resolved the trade's concern about the problem of corresponding control arising from the "four-up-four-down" rule and implemented such policies as the mutual recognition of green customs seals, thereby enhancing the clearance efficiency of the control points on both sides, facilitating

the flow of goods and promoting the rapid development of logistics in Shenzhen and Hong Kong. By now, Customs officers from both sides have reached a preliminary consensus on the mutual recognition of X-ray system examination information and cargo examination reports. We hope to

eventually achieve the sharing of examination information and thus further enhance clearance efficiency.

"Co-location" Arrangement

With the commissioning of the Shenzhen Bay Port in mid-2007, the "co-location" clearance mode will be introduced. This milestone arrangement of co-location has profound significance for both Customs jurisdictions. A high-level group comprising representatives of the two Customs administrations is currently working on the infrastructure of Shenzhen Bay Port and will further examine the integration of the innovative clearance mode, with a view to accelerating the logistics trade.

The ever-increasing cross-boundary flow of people and goods poses an enormous challenge to the Customs authorities. Both sides renew their respective efforts to further strengthen co-operation on various fronts. I believe that the unprecedented visit to Sanmen Dao will open new room to enhance co-operation between the two Customs agencies.

History and Innovation

Looking back on history, Hong Kong Customs will be building more from the solid foundation of co-operation with our counterparts in Shenzhen and Guangdong Province, to extend the realm of our co-operation to every Customs region of the nine provinces in Pan-Pearl River Delta Region. We have some innovative ideas to share with you in the next issue of "Customs News".

Timothy Tong
Commissioner

Source: "A Chronicle of the Shenzhen Customs at Sanmen Dao Office (1899-2006)" from the Shenzhen Customs, the picture album on "Shenzhen Customs in Commemoration of the Renaming of Kowloon Customs" from the Shenzhen Customs and the booklet on "90th Anniversary of the Customs and Excise Department"



Located south of Daya Wan and at the eastern waters of Shenzhen some 1.5 nautical miles from Dapeng Peninsula, the natural beauty of Sanmen Islands has earned them the reputation of "Oriental Hawaii".

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Originating from the Ma Wan Monuments

On the west of Ma Wan Island, there is a kaito pier with a small typhoon shelter lying in the adjacent area. The Ma Wan Rural Committee building is standing quietly along the coast next to the pier. Outside the building is a cement ground. Two granite monuments were erected restfully on it - one bore the inscriptions of "Kowloon Customs" whilst the other "the loan of 7 feet of land by the Kowloon Customs". The inscriptions revealed that both monuments were erected on an auspicious day in the seventh month of the 23rd year of Emperor Guangxu's reign (1897 A.D.). As a high standard of calligraphy and lapidary was seen in the inscriptions, it could be inferred that they were not produced by ordinary civilian monument workshops.

These two monuments tell us a Customs story left over by an episode in history.

The Opium War in the 19th century did not bring an end to opium trade. On the contrary, the seizure of Hong Kong had translated the place into a fixed transit port for the smuggling of opium. Located in the watercourse of Kap Shui Mun, Ma Wan served as the frontier guard post of the major ingress to the Pearl River. At that time, the Guangdong Customs of the Chinese Government set up Chinese Customs Stations and equipped themselves with anti-smuggling speedboats in the eastern and western waters of Hong Kong so as to clamp down the increasing rampant smuggling activities. One of the Chinese Customs Stations was established in Kap Shui Mun (i.e. Ma Wan). The resolute stand and high-handed measures of the Chinese Government were regarded by Hong Kong-based British businessmen as a "blockade" of Hong Kong.

At that time, the Qing Government still imposed a ban on opium. However, the ban was in fact less than effective under the drive of making huge profits. As a result, suggestions had been received from inside and outside the country that the Qing Government should simply announce the initiation of levying duty on opium in order to suppress opium trade. Negotiation between the Qing Government and the British Government over levying duty on opium was no easy matter. Apart from the many concrete reasons, the main reason was the wrestling of opium traders behind the scenes. After a prolonged bargain, representatives from the Chinese and British Governments as well as the Hong Kong Government eventually signed the "Hong Kong Trade Agreement (《香港貿易協定》)" in 1886. The contents of the agreement

included not only the official agreement on lifting the ban on opium and on the initiation of levying duty on opium, but also matters concerning the Customs, which was the transfer of management of the four Chinese Customs Stations located respectively in Kowloon City, Kap Shui Mun (Ma Wan), Cheung Chau and Junk Island which guarded the main transportation lines on the Hong Kong Island from the Chinese "Chang Guan (常關) (i.e. office of the Chinese Customs Service under the charge of Chinese inspectorate) to Inspector General Robert Hart, who was appointed by the Chinese Government. (See "Message from Commissioner" in Customs News Issue No. 30 for background)." Hart was also granted with arbitration authority to handle trade disputes between Guangdong and Hong Kong. Besides, the British Government agreed to the establishment of a Customs office by the Chinese Government on Hong Kong Island. This was the origin of the establishment of Kowloon Customs. On 4 March 1887, Hart assigned E.A.Morgan to take charge of the Customs duties in Kowloon (Hong Kong District) by taking over the aforesaid Chinese Customs Stations and preparing for the initiation of levying duty and Likin on opium. On 2 April of the same year, the post of Inspector of Kowloon Customs was created and the Head Office of Kowloon Customs was located at 2/F, Bank Building (銀行大廈), 16-18 Queen's Road Central, Victoria City, Hong Kong. Thereafter, Kap Shui Mun (Ma Wan) Chinese Customs Station was formally put under the charge of Kowloon Customs.

The Chinese Customs Stations of the late Qing Dynasty were categorized into two systems. The original type of the Chinese Customs Station was named "Chang Guan", which collected Likin from civilian boats. In the Chinese Customs Stations at the five trading ports, namely Guangzhou, Xiamen, Fuzhou, Ningbo and Shanghai, foreign Inspectors were stationed responsible for collecting duties from foreign vessels. The foreign Inspectors of those cities were accountable to the foreign Inspector General,



Ma Wan Monuments

while the foreign Inspector General was accountable to the Zongli Shiwu Yamen of the Central Government. This type of system formed under the overall supervision of Prince Gong was named "Yang Guan (洋關) (i.e. office of the Chinese Customs Service under the charge of foreign inspectorate)". After the establishment of "Yang Guan", "Chang Guan" became a nominal body. As the relationship between the two systems was so complicated, it is necessary to write a book in order to tell you the details.

According to the inscriptions, the Ma Wan monuments were erected in the seventh month of the 23rd year of Emperor Guangxu's reign of the Qing Dynasty. At that time, Ma Wan was situated within the boundary of China and the agreement of leasing the New Territories was signed in June 1898 (the 24th year of Emperor Guangxu's reign). Should it be the case, why did the Qing Government have to borrow the land for setting up a Chinese Customs Station within her boundary? From whom did it borrow the land? What does it mean exactly since "7 feet" denotes the measurement of a length rather than an area? They are all doubts. Here comes an explanation that the land was borrowed from the villagers for the construction of a 7-foot wide road across the eastern and western coasts of Ma Wan Island. The measurement was therefore given in a British unit as Hart was a British subject. Although this explanation was still a bit far-fetched, no detailed elaborations were available in other reference material.

The disgraceful opium trade implied by the inscriptions has already been weeded out from history. Today, our Customs is committed to combating the trafficking and smuggling of drugs with vigorous efforts.

(This article is prepared by the Customs News Editorial Board based on the information provided by Mr Zhao Bin, the managing director of Sino United Publishing (Holdings) Limited. Acknowledgement is made of the generous contributions of Mr Zhao.)

Jia Qinglin Visits Customs At Airport



Chairman Jia Qinglin (first left) examining drugs found by Customs drug detector dog. Looking on are the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang (centre) and Commissioner Tong (first right).

The Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Mr Jia Qinglin, toured the Hong Kong International Airport on June 29, 2006 before departure after a three-day visit to Hong Kong.

Commissioner Tong briefed Mr Jia on the operation of Hong Kong Customs at the airport and arranged for Mr Jia a demonstration of how Customs drug detector dog conducted searches on passengers.

During the demonstration, Mr Jia and his delegation were impressed by the Customs drug detector dog, which could locate concealed drugs from a disguised passenger amid the large passenger flow.

Noting the competency of the Customs drug detector dog, Mr Jia commended Hong Kong Customs work in combating drug trafficking.

He was also briefed on the close co-operation between Hong Kong Customs and Mainland authorities in rooting out cross-boundary drug trafficking.

Mr Jia was informed that in December 2005, Hong Kong Customs and General Administration of Customs, PRC signed an agreement on a training scheme for dog handlers and detector dogs.

Under the scheme, Customs Officers from Hong Kong Customs will be sent for a 6-week training in Mainland. They will be trained with dogs, which are provided by the General Administration of Customs.

The first training class for three Hong Kong Customs officers was completed in May and the trained dogs are scheduled to resume duty in October this year.

Speaking to the media before his departure from the airport, Mr Jia said he personally felt the profound friendship of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government as well as its people throughout this visit. He could also feel the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong as well as the superiority of the principle of "One Country, Two Systems".

Customs Liaison Bureau



Demonstration by a Customs drug detector dog.

CE visits Customs and Excise Department



The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang (right), was briefed by Commissioner Tong on measures to facilitate trade and cargo clearance.

The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, visited the Customs and Excise Department on September 21, 2006. He was briefed by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Timothy Tong, on the Department's plans to organise "The Pan-PRD Customs Trade Facilitation Forum and Regional Customs Commissioners Joint Conference" in the second quarter of 2007.

The Chief Executive expressed his support for holding the event in Hong Kong.

Customs chiefs from the nine provinces in the Pan Pearl River Delta and Macau will be invited to attend the event, and to exchange views on Customs clearance. Arrangements will be made for them to meet with local business people to explore trade and investment opportunities.

It is hoped that substantial progress will be made on a number of initiatives, including the airport cargo point-to-point express lane and a simplified clearance procedure for Hong Kong cargo entering the Mainland.

Commending the Department for its pragmatic work approach, the Chief Executive said, "Promoting trade facilitation and fostering closer co-operation on Customs clearance between Hong Kong and the Pan Pearl River Delta can help strengthen Hong Kong's position as a premier international transport hub, further promoting trade development."

The Chief Executive learnt that Hong Kong and Mainland Customs have put in place in recent years various measures for trade facilitation and Customs clearance. He said, "It is important for Hong Kong Customs to keep pace with the international trend of using electronic data interchange for Customs clearance on all fronts. Parties concerned should speed up the development of an electronic platform for the purpose. Hong Kong Customs' close co-operation with the Mainland and customs administrations overseas would help achieve seamless customs clearance and facilitate trade."

Commissioner Tong also briefed the Chief Executive on the Department's enforcement in combating drug trafficking, illicit fuel and copyright infringing activities.

On the staff aspect, Deputy Commissioner Lawrence Wong briefed the Chief Executive on



Group Head (Marine Enforcement) Fong Fai-hung (left) briefing the Chief Executive on Customs enforcement against sea smuggling activities.

the Department's efforts in promoting integrity among staff. The Chief Executive was told that "integrity, justice and professionalism" had long been the core values of the Department in law enforcement. In order to inculcate the integrity culture more effectively, the Department has published a "Code on Conduct and Discipline", which sets out clear guidelines for staff members to comply when carrying out their enforcement duties. Staff members are required to display a strong sense of discipline, adhere to a high moral standard and avoid any conflict of interest.



The Chief Executive chatting with Customs frontline officers to learn about the challenges they face in their work.

The departmental Integrity Steering Committee, chaired by Deputy Commissioner, was set up in 2001. A comprehensive package of training and initiatives has been put in place to foster the culture of integrity. These include: imparting the concept of integrity and morale principles through the induction and on-the-job training programmes; the publication of quarterly magazine "Pine" on healthy life style and leaflets on stress management and personal finance to provide practical guidance; and production of VCDs on "Prudent Financial Management" and "Integrity - Professional Commitment" to consolidate staff's commitment to upholding integrity.

The Chief Executive agreed that an upright and corruption-free Customs force would not only strengthen public confidence in Customs enforcement, but also help boost staff morale in the Department.

The Deputy Commissioner also introduced to the Chief Executive various types of sports and recreational activities being promoted in the Department, which were instrumental in enhancing staff's commitment to their family and sense of belonging to the Department.



Divisional Commander (Trade Descriptions Investigation) Samson Chiu briefing the Chief Executive on Customs enforcement against counterfeiting activities.

Accompanied by Customs' senior officials, the Chief Executive boarded a Customs launch to see Customs officers at work. He learnt how the Department worked with the Government Flying Service and Marine Police in suppressing sea smuggling activities.

The Chief Executive also toured simulated piracy scenes, getting a glimpse of the real-life sales of pirated disks and counterfeit goods. He was briefed on Customs work in the protection of intellectual property rights.

During the visit, the Chief Executive met with the frontline officers to learn about the challenges they faced in their work. He said the recruitment defreeze for Customs this year would help to relieve work pressure of colleagues. But he reminded that there were always new demands in our work. Everyone has to work whole-heartedly to deliver quality service.

The Chief Executive was impressed by the professional work of Customs officers in Customs clearance, law enforcement and trade facilitation. He said their work exemplified the good quality of the disciplinary forces.



The Chief Executive boarded a Customs launch to learn how the department worked with the Government Flying Service and Marine Police in suppressing sea smuggling activities.

Information Unit

Note: The video on the Chief Executive's visit has been uploaded to <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200609/21/P200609210182.htm>

PSCI Visits Customs

Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Commerce and Industry) Yvonne Choi visited the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau (IPIB) on September 19, 2006 to familiarize with the Department's work in intellectual property rights (IPRs) protection.

Miss Choi was accompanied by her Deputy Secretary, Christopher Wong; Principal Assistant Secretary, Priscilla To; Assistant Director of Intellectual Property (Copyright), Ada Leung; and Senior Solicitor (Copyright) of the Intellectual Property Department, Maria Kaiser Ng.

Deputy Commissioner Lawrence Wong, Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation) Y K Tam and IPIB officers briefed Miss Choi on Customs IPRs enforcement work and trends of Internet piracy, in particular illegal file sharing activities by means of BitTorrent (BT) 'peer-to-peer' software. The delegation visited the Anti-Internet Piracy Workshop and saw a demonstration by front-line investigators on how to monitor and track down infringing activities in the cyber world.



Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Commerce and Industry) Yvonne Choi (second left) visited office of Anti-Internet Piracy Team and was briefed on how Customs investigated infringing activities. Senior Inspector (Anti-Internet Piracy Team), Simon Wan (first left), carried a demonstration on how to monitor and track down infringing activities on the Internet.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau

Government Unites With 200,000

Youth Ambassadors To Protect IPRs

The “Youth Ambassador Scheme”, initiated by Hong Kong Customs in co-operation with the Intellectual Property Department, was one of the main campaigns in a series of publicity and educational programmes for IPRs protection launched by Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau on May 29, 2006.

The scheme has three main objectives, that is, promoting the importance of IPRs; expanding the avenues for monitoring illegal Internet activities by involving young people, and reducing the flow of infringing BT seeds on the Internet.

Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, Mr Joseph WP Wong; Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee; Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Timothy Tong; and Acting Director of Intellectual Property, Mr Peter KF Cheung, along with representatives from the creative and intellectual property industries, witnessed the 1,600 youngsters who were from 11 local youth uniformed organisations taking the vow at the “Youth Ambassador Scheme” Launch Ceremony and “I Pledge” Campaign at the Stadium on July 19, 2006.

Mr Wong reiterated that the Government was determined to combat acts of infringement on the Internet. “Apart from effective legal protection and



Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, Mr Joseph WP Wong (centre); Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee (sixth left); Commissioner Tong (fourth left); Acting Director of Intellectual Property, Mr Peter KF Cheung (eighth left) officiating at the “Youth Ambassador” Scheme Launching Ceremony and “I Pledge” Campaign with representatives of the eleven local youth uniformed organisations and intellectual property rights industry.

stringent law-enforcement action, ongoing publicity and education is also called for.”

“The Youth Ambassador Scheme symbolises a breakthrough in that for the first time, 200,000 youngsters are mustered to achieve the common goals of fighting Internet piracy, protecting intellectual property rights, and encouraging innovation and creativity. At the same time, the scheme involves the concrete action of removing infringing copies of copyright works found on the Internet.”

While commending the Customs and Excise Department for having come up with such an unprecedented and novel idea, Mr Wong said he was proud of all Youth Ambassadors who had joined the scheme.

Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee, said while delivering a speech at the ceremony, “In the wake of the ongoing development of society and the burgeoning knowledge-based economy, one of the priorities of the HKSAR Government is to protect our creative industries.

“We are fully committed to setting up a robust and effective system for protecting IPRs, as well



Representatives from 11 local youth uniformed organizations taking part in the launching ceremony.



Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, Mr Joseph WP Wong (left photo) and Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee delivering speeches at the launching ceremony.

as maintaining a fair and sound legal framework. In the field of law enforcement, Hong Kong Customs has been taking stringent action against infringements of IPRs. As a result of its relentless efforts, piracy and counterfeiting activities have been brought under firm control.”

However, given the infinity of the cyberspace, it is quite impossible for law-enforcement officers to station themselves at every corner. Mr Lee said, “The Youth Ambassador Scheme that is launched today by Hong Kong Customs in conjunction with the intellectual property rights sector and 11 youth uniformed organisations in Hong Kong is exactly designed to inject a large monitoring force into the Internet to back up the law-enforcement agencies, so that we could jointly create a piracy-free environment and protect the local creative industries.”

Commissioner Tong announced during the launching ceremony of “Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme” that since the pilot run of the Scheme in February, Hong Kong Customs had up until July 18 received some 1,200 reports of suspected BT seeds involving pirated copyright work.

Over 60% of such infringing BT seeds had been removed. As for the remainder, a great majority had been invalidated, while a handful accounting for less than 1% were currently under Customs investigation.

Mr Tong said the scheme had already marked a milestone of success in the protection of

intellectual property rights (IPRs) on the Internet.

Stressing that the launch was only a starting point, Commissioner Tong revealed that Hong Kong Customs was considering setting up a Youth Ambassador Secretariat to ensure the smooth operation of the scheme, to facilitate communication and

coordination between the uniformed organisations and the IPRs organisations, as well as to organise training and activities of various kinds for the Youth Ambassadors, with a view to enhancing their awareness of IPRs protection and sustaining their passion.

Apart from the 200,000 youngsters, aged from nine to 25, from the 11 local youth uniformed organisations, the scheme has gained the support of five major organisations in the IPRs industry, covering movie, TV drama and music accounting for most of the local and overseas market share.

Under the scheme, Hong Kong Customs had earlier introduced a new web page and a notification mechanism within the official website of the Intellectual Property Rights Protection Alliance (<http://www.iprpa.org>).

Members may log into the purpose-built website of Hong Kong Customs with the password assigned to their respective organisations, and report any suspected BT infringement seeds found on local discussion forums by inputting the relevant information under a simple mechanism.

After some preliminary scrutiny, Customs will liaise with relevant copyright representatives for verification. Should a BT seed be confirmed a piracy file, relevant webmaster of the discussion forum will be requested to remove the concerned BT seed or take appropriate action in due course.

Information Unit

Secretary For Security Commends Customs At Passing-Out Parade

Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee commended Hong Kong Customs for its role in guarding the busy control points against crime during the passing-out parade on June 16, 2006.

Speaking at a passing-out parade for 38 Inspectors at the Department's Training School, Mr Lee said, "The Customs and Excise Department covers a wide spectrum of work to uphold the law and order of our society, including combating illicit drug trafficking and smuggling activities, protecting intellectual property rights and consumers' rights."

"Customs has also striven to secure Hong Kong as a major trade, transportation and logistics hub in Asia by maintaining smooth passenger and cargo clearance at all control points," he said.

Turning to Customs liaison work with the Mainland and the international world, Mr Lee said, "With the fast economic development in the Mainland, Hong Kong Customs has strengthened co-operation with its counterparts in the Pan-Pearl River Delta region to enhance logistics flows, customs clearance and efficiency. This has contributed to the regional economic advancement."

"In the next few years, we expect a number of cross-boundary logistics and passenger clearance projects to come on stream that will considerably increase the heavy workload of Hong Kong Customs. These include the operation of Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line that will help relieve the crowded conditions at Lo Wu Control Point; and the adoption of the "co-location" arrangement for the first time at the Shenzhen Bay Port," he said.

In the realm of international co-operation, Hong Kong Customs is committed to achieving the "SAFE



Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose S K Lee, inspecting a contingent of Customs Inspectors.

Framework of Standards" promulgated by the World Customs Organisation, with the objective of balancing trade facilitation and promoting customs clearance. In this respect, the department has introduced measures to safeguard the security of the supply chain of international trade.

"Customs has also co-operated well with the law enforcement agencies in other customs territories and pooled together resources from various authorities through a multi-pronged strategy to curb cross-border drug trafficking activities and syndicates," Mr Lee said.

Mr Lee encouraged the officers to apply their knowledge gained from the training and to demonstrate their dedication in their careers.

Accompanying Mr Lee at the passing-out parade was Commissioner Tong.

A total of 38 Inspectors who had completed 32 weeks of highly demanding training participated in the ceremony.



Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee, delivering a speech at the Passing-out Parade.

Information Unit

Meeting With Guangdong Customs

On Anti-smuggling At Sea

Led by Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports) Chow Kwong, a seven-member delegation from Hong Kong Customs held a meeting with officers of the Anti-Smuggling Bureau of the Guangdong Sub-Administration of the General Administration of Customs, PRC on May 12, 2006 at Yantian Customs Marine Base in Shenzhen.

The two administrations agreed to strengthen coordination in mounting joint operations and enhance intelligence exchange on the latest trend and modus operandi of sea smuggling activities.

After the meeting, the delegation visited San Men Dao Vessels Monitoring Office to see Customs clearance facilities for Chinese trading vessels.

Ports and Maritime Command



Group photo of both delegations respectively led by Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports) Chow Kwong (fourth right, first row) and Deputy Director General of Guangdong Sub-Administration of the General Administration of Customs and Director General of Anti-Smuggling Bureau Li Yaonan (fourth left, first row) at the Yantian Customs Marine Base in Shenzhen.

International Drug Enforcement Conference

To strengthen co-operation with enforcement agencies worldwide in combating cross-boundary drug trafficking activities, Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation) Leung Koon-wah and Group Head (Controlled Chemicals) Chan Yiu-wah attended the 24th International Drug Enforcement Conference (Conference), which was organised by the Drug Enforcement Administration of United States (DEA) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police of Canada (RCMP).

Held in Montreal, Canada, from May 8 to 11, the Conference attracted about 240 representatives from enforcement agencies of 76 regions.

Apart from sharing their anti-drugs enforcement experience, the participants also discussed strategies in combating cross-boundary drug trafficking, money laundering and chemical diversion. High-level exchange of intelligence on activities of drug syndicate was also made.

In light of Hong Kong's relentless effort in combating drug trafficking, Hong Kong Customs



Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation) Leung Koon-wah (middle) and Group Head (Controlled Chemicals) Chan Yiu-wah (left) attended the International Drug Enforcement Conference.

was also selected along with four other participating regions to sit on a panel discussing current drug trafficking trend.

During the panel meeting, a presentation was made by Hong Kong Customs in relation to recent achievements in combating drug trafficking, the strategies employed and the challenges faced.

Customs Drug Investigation Bureau

HK Customs Works Closely With Mainland Customs, FEHD And AFCD To Deter Poultry Smuggling

The Department has strengthened co-operation with the Mainland Customs, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to deter poultry smuggling in view of the suspension of import of live poultry and birds from the Mainland for three weeks starting from June 16, 2006 after a confirmed H5N1 human case in Shenzhen.



Briefing the media about the stepped-up surveillance on June 17, 2006, Head of Control Points Command CL Ko warned that those who smuggled into Hong Kong live birds or poultry meat could face prosecution.

A parallel operation code-named "Operation Parrot" was mounted by Hong Kong and Mainland Customs from June 17 to 30. The operation targeted both passengers and cargo at Man Kam To, Lok Ma Chau, Sha Tau Kok and Lo Wu Control Points.

During the Operation, Hong Kong Customs seized from nine passengers nine fresh chicken and six frozen ducks, which were handed over to FEHD or AFCD for further follow-up action.

Information Unit

Customs Supports Battery Recycling Programme

Starting from September 2006, Hong Kong Customs hands over to Environmental Protection Department (EPD) counterfeit rechargeable batteries seized by the Department for recycling.



EPD's contractor carrying out a saltwater immersion process to deactivate the batteries.

"The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Programme" is jointly organized by EPD, green groups and the battery trade to minimize the damage to the environment caused by disposal of harmful materials and to conserve valuable natural resources. Hong Kong Customs is the first Government department to participate in the Programme.

Under the Programme, counterfeit rechargeable batteries seized by the Department are shipped to South Korea for recycling.

Before joining the recycling scheme, the counterfeit rechargeable batteries seized by the Department are disposed of at landfill.

To ensure that all counterfeit batteries are properly destroyed and cannot be sold in the market. Hong Kong Customs and EPD explored different means of destruction and found that salt water

immersion is the safest method to defunct the batteries whilst preserving the precious metals.

To get familiarized with the new recycling arrangement, Customs officers from Control Points Command, Ports and Maritime Command, Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau and

Supplies Office participated in a trial run of the programme in June this year.

On September 18, 2006, the Department passed the first batch of counterfeit batteries (19,352 pieces) to EPD for recycling.

Launched in April, 2005 by EPD, the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Programme was funded by 34 manufacturers and importers of rechargeable batteries and electronic equipment as a voluntary producer responsibility scheme.

As at April 2006, more than 13 tonnes (320,000 pieces) of rechargeable batteries have been shipped to a designated treatment facility in South Korea for recycling.

Supplies Section



Photo shows (from right) Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence & Investigation) Leung Koon-wah; Narcotics Attaché of Drug Enforcement Administration, Hong Kong Country Office (DEA) Gene Goon, and Head of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau (CDIB) Ben Leung meeting with Deputy Director General of Shenzhen Customs Zhang Hua-lu at the opening ceremony of “Cross Boundary Investigation and Intelligence Sharing Workshop”, which was held in Hong Kong.

Held from June 6 to 9, 2006, the Workshop was organised by CDIB and DEA with the aim of enhancing tripartite co-operation in anti-narcotics work and strengthening the skills of Inspectorate grade officers in taking enforcement action. Eighty officers from DEA, Mainland and Hong Kong Customs participated in the workshop.

The Workshop covered a wide range of topics, including precursor control in Hong Kong and the US, control of drug-related pharmaceuticals, financial investigation, regional trafficking trend, cross-boundary drug trafficking investigation, controlled delivery operations and case study on “Operation ScentHound”.



Divisional Commander (Intellectual Property Investigation Support) Lee Yiu-kuen and Inspector Ng Wai-ming of Complaints Investigation Group were awarded “The Ombudsman’s Awards” in September, 2006 for their exemplary performance in complaint handling and customer service.

Mr Lee's excellent service in handling complaints from the public, copyright and trademark owners, and his efforts in organizing intellectual property rights publicity and education campaigns have earned him “The Ombudsman’s Awards 2006 for Officers of Public Organizations” under the General Nominations category.

As for Inspector Ng, he was awarded under the Complaint Related Nominations category for his outstanding performance in handling public complaints.

Divisional Commander (Intellectual Property Investigation Support) Lee Yiu-kuen (upper photo) and Inspector Ng (first right, bottom photo) received the award from the Ombudsman, Alice Tai. Also present in the bottom photo was Group Head (Complaints Investigation Group) P L Ho (first left, bottom photo).





Divisional Commander (Drug Investigation (Manufacturing and Distribution)) Yuen Chi-kau of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau (first right) and Divisional Commander (Marine Enforcement) Carl Lam of Ports and Maritime Command (third right) attended the Expert Seminar for Promoting Co-operation on Maritime Drug Related Crimes with Neighboring Asian Countries from July 11 to 13, 2006.

Held by the Japan Coast Guard in Tokyo, the seminar was aimed to enhance intelligence exchange and co-operation among participating agencies in combating transnational drug trafficking by sea.

Photo shows Divisional Commander (Drug Investigation (Manufacturing and Distribution)) Yuen Chi-kau of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau (first right) and Divisional Commander (Marine Enforcement) Carl Lam of Ports and Maritime Command (third right) with other professionals of the Seminar.



Divisional Commander (Risk Management) Vincent Sin (first left) of Intelligence Bureau and Senior Inspector Morris Liu (second right) of Ports and Maritime Command pictured with officers of National Risk Assessment Centre during their visit to Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) between April 23 and 28, 2006.

The visit enabled the officers to have better understanding of the operation of “TITAN” an electronic targeting tool used by CBSA for risk profiling after the implementation of e-manifest. Based on risk management, TITAN helps CBSA locate high-risk shipment more effectively without hampering the flow of low risk trade.



Group Head (Air Cargo) of Airport Command Ken Wong gave a presentation on “Quality Clearance Service for the Air Cargo Industry” at “Air Cargo Forum 2006”, which was organised by the Airport Authority on March 23, 2006.

The Forum was aimed to explore ways to maintain Hong Kong International Airport as a premier logistics hub, in light of the growth in cargo flow and competition brought about by the opening of airports in nearby region. More than 250 professionals from air cargo industry participated in the Forum.

This was the second year Airport Authority organised the Forum.



Together with 17 law enforcement officials from 14 countries in the Asia Pacific region, Divisional Commander (Airport Investigation) Donald Wong (second left, last row) of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau attended the International Narcotics Enforcement Management Seminar in Honolulu, Hawaii, from May 30 to June 16, 2006.

The seminar, with focus on narcotics enforcement principles and techniques, was a 3-week programme for senior executives and managers of foreign operational drug units. It was organised by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. This year's programme was sponsored by the Joint Interagency Task Force West of the United States Department of Defense. Special emphasis was placed on fighting transnational drug trafficking in Asia Pacific Region.



Senior Inspector Lai Ka-lok and Senior Trade Controls Officer Leung Chi-ming of Office of Training and Development attended the First Training Workshop for Accredited Trainers, which was held at the headquarters of World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels, Belgium from June 19 to 21, 2006.

The course was organised by WTO for professional trainers from different Customs administrations on how to use the Secretariat's instructional materials for their own training activities in their regions.

Photo shows Senior Trade Controls Officer of Office of Training and Development Leung Chi-ming (first right) and Senior Inspector Lai Ka-lok (second right) at a discussion with course participants.



Inspector Leung Yu-cheong of Special Task Force (STF) attended the 178th Basic Investigation Techniques Course (BITS) in London from February 13 to March 17, 2006.

Organised by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), the course was aimed to strengthen HMRC investigators' skills in mounting surveillance and investigation while enriching their legal knowledge.

Apart from theoretical teaching, participants were arranged to attend practical exercise to apply the theories learned in classroom.

Inspector Leung said the course had given him insights in mounting surveillance and investigation, which could be applied to his work in STF.

Photo shows Inspector Leung (first right, back row) with the course participants.



To enhance understanding of Customs' work, Principal Magistrate of Fanling Magistrates' Courts, Mr Andrew Ma and four other Magistrates visited the Lok Ma Chau Control Point and Lo Wu Control Point on August 12, 2006.

During the visit, they were briefed by Head of Control Points Command CL Ko on Customs' work at land boundary control points.

Photo shows Principal Magistrate Andrew Ma (fifth left, second row) and four Magistrates of Fanling Magistrates' Court with Head of Control Points Command CL Ko (fourth left, second row) at the Inbound Cargo Examination Platform of Lok Ma Chau Control Point.



To enhance the transparency of the mechanism for duty assessment on liquor, the Department sought the co-operation of the organiser to set up a booth in the Vinexpo Asia-Pacific 2006, a grand Expo attracting some 600 wine exhibitors worldwide to Hong Kong between May 23 and 25, 2006. The booth offered a convenient window to help international wine traders to know more about the duty system on liquor, the licensing/permit requirements and relevant laws. Over 150 traders visited the Customs booth for information.

Photo shows Acting Financial Secretary, Mr Stephen Ip (first left), visiting the Customs booth after officiating at the opening ceremony of the Vinexpo at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on May 23, 2006.



Head of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau (CDIB) Ben Leung and Senior Inspector Lai Lau-pak attended the "Repressing Drugs Smuggling Seminar", which was held in Aletai, Xinjiang from September 11 to 14, 2006.

Organised by Customs General Administration of PRC, the seminar was aimed to offer a platform for participants to share with each other their experience; to review significant drug cases cracked; and to draw up plan for joint operation with Anti-smuggling Bureau of Customs General Administration.

Photo shows Head of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau Ben Leung (middle) and Senior Inspector Lai Lau-pak (right) at the seminar.

Officers from Revenue and General Investigation Bureau (RGIB), Airport Command, Control Points Command, Ports and Maritime Command and Special Task Force attended seminars organised by RGIB on anti-illicit cigarette enforcement from April 25 to 26, 2006.

During the seminars, speakers from RGIB and Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration delivered talks on the latest trend, modus operandi of illicit cigarette activities and the Electron Data Interchange of Dutiable Commodities Permit.

Representatives from four cigarettes trademark owners in Hong Kong, namely British American

Tobacco (BAT) Group and Philip Morris Asia Limited, Japan Tobacco (China) Limited and Nanyang Brother Tobacco Company Limited, were invited to share with participants techniques to differentiate between genuine and counterfeit cigarettes.

Participants were arranged to visit Nanyang Brother Tobacco Factory to enhance their understanding of the operation of the industry and the use of security design to help differentiating fake from genuine products.

Bottom left photo shows the participants with Head of Revenue and General Investigation Bureau Cheung Kwok-fu (centre, first row).



To combat cross-boundary drug abuse and to warn youngsters in Hong Kong, Macao and the Pearl River Delta regions to stay away from drugs, the Action Committee Against Narcotics and the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau collaborated with Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a TV docu-drama, entitled "Anti-drug Files".

The docu-drama comprises of nine 30-minute episodes, which are based on real cases conducted by enforcement agencies in Hong Kong. The programme is broadcast during prime time on Saturdays starting from July 29, 2006.

Highlighting the importance of international co-operation in combating drug crime, one of the episodes is based on a case concluded by Customs

Drug Investigation Bureau (CDIB). It is about a controlled delivery operation jointly conducted by Hong Kong, Belgium and UK Customs and Swiss Police in December 2004.

During the operation, CDIB seized about 62,700 MDMA tablets from a courier consignment of aquarium filters sent from Belgium and arrested four local men. One of the arrestees was charged with "Trafficking in a dangerous drug" and was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment.

Top right photo shows Head of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau Ben Leung (fourth left) receiving a plaque from the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mrs Rosanna Ure Lui (second left) on July 28, 2006.