

Customs News

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Pan-PRD Customs Trade Facilitation Forum – Milestone for greater regional co-operation

The "Pan-PRD Customs Trade Facilitation Forum cum Regional Customs Commissioners Joint Conference" co-organised by the Hong Kong Customs and the General Administration of Customs (GAC) of the People's Republic of China was held on 10 and 11 May in Hong Kong. The Forum was the largest-ever exchange activity for the Customs administrations in the region and was one of the major celebrations for the 10th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. It marks a milestone of close Customs co-operation in the Pan-PRD region.

CE: Speed up electronic platform

Officiating at the opening ceremony of the Forum, the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, spoke highly of the importance of the Pan-PRD regional co-operation. He called on the Mainland and Hong Kong Customs to keep pace with the global trend of using electronic data interchange for Customs clearance through mutual co-operation and to speed up the development of an electronic platform.

He noted that C&ED has played an important role in the economic development blueprint of the



Minister of the General Administration of Customs (GAC) of the People's Republic of China, Mr Mu Xinsheng introducing to the Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mr Donald Tsang, the model of Shenzhen Bay Port Passenger Terminal Building.

(From right, second row) Vice-Minister of the GAC and Director General of Guangdong Sub-Administration of the GAC, Mr Liu Wenjie; Commissioner of Customs and Excise of Hong Kong, Mr Timothy Tong; Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, Mr Gao Siren, and Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee.



The Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mr Donald Tsang, delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of the Pan-PRD Customs Trade Facilitation Forum.

Pan-PRD region, and has served as a bridge connecting our country with the world in promoting economic activities between different areas and expediting the passenger and cargo flow.

Minister Mu: Simplify clearance procedure

Minister Mu Xinsheng of the GAC said in the Forum that a multi-layered and multi-faceted "9 + 2" working relationship in the Pan-PRD had emerged in the past three years. With work pragmatically carried out, remarkable achievements had been made.

He said that in 2007, the GAC would continue to improve the infrastructure of the ports, simplify customs clearance procedures, create a legal and convenient environment for clearance and establish a good partnership with the various import/export enterprises in the Pan-PRD region. GAC would actively put into practice the CEPA measures and enhance enforcement co-operation with the Hong Kong and Macao customs.

Over 1200 representatives from the Customs Administrations, commercial and trade, maritime, logistics and academic sectors of the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao participated in the Forum. They reviewed the present situation of the Pan-PRD regional co-operation from different perspectives and contributed their views on the prospects and the way forward for regional development.

After consolidating views from all sides and careful deliberation, Customs Administrations of the three places issued a Joint Declaration of the Customs Administrations in the Pan-PRD region on that day. The tripartite parties announced that Customs co-operation in the Pan-PRD region would be further strengthened, and a series of initiatives for customs clearance facilitation would be implemented.

Eight Co-operation Projects

At the Regional Customs Commissioners Joint Conference held on 11 May, a Letter of Intent for the Implementation of Eight Co-operation Projects



Customs Commissioners from the Pan-PRD Region, Hong Kong and Macao as well as business sectors of the region participating in the Pan-PRD Customs Trade Facilitation Forum to explore ways of promoting regional trade and commerce.

Pictured (from left, front row) are Commissioner of Customs and Excise of Hong Kong, Mr Timothy Tong; Assistant Minister of Commerce of PRC, Mr Chong Quan; Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR, Mr Lu Xinhua; Vice-Minister of the General Administration of Customs of PRC (GAC) and Director General of Guangdong Sub-Administration of the GAC, Mr Liu Wenjie; Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, Mr Gao Siren; the Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mr Donald Tsang; Minister of the GAC, Mr Mu Xinsheng; Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee; Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Zhou Bo; Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, Ms Guo Li; Director-General of Anti-Smuggling Bureau of the GAC, Mr Lu Bin, and Director-General of Macao Customs Service, Mr Choi Lai-hang.

was signed. Agreement was reached on eight co-operation projects, covering cross-boundary express clearance, Shenzhen-Macao shipping routes, mechanism for enhanced customs co-operation in anti-smuggling operations, protection of intellectual property rights and training for customs personnel.

Our objectives on customs clearance

The achievements of the Pan-PRD Customs Trade Facilitation Forum not only reaffirm the support of the general community for customs service, but also serve as a positive guidance to the Department in its long-term development. Our objectives are:

- The operation of customs clearance must be in synchronization with the standard modus operandi of the chain of supply of international trade, so as to achieve convergence in regional clearance, to provide convenient clearance arrangements to trading partners who have met the requirements, and to raise the levels of transportation efficiency and safety of international trade.
- To employ sophisticated technologies in the development of our electronic clearance systems; and to keep abreast of the main trend in global logistics development.



Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Mu Xinsheng (left), presenting a souvenir to Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Timothy Tong, at the Regional Customs Commissioners Joint Conference.

- To examine various measures to speed up customs clearance, with a view to introducing an innovative mode of clearance management.

In the context of the eight co-operation projects, the Hong Kong Customs will work towards three specific aims in the coming year.



Guests being invited to toast in the cocktail reception organized by the commercial and industrial sectors of Hong Kong during the Pan-PRD Customs Trade Facilitation Forum.

(Front row from left) General Committee Member of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, Mr David Lie; Deputy Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, Mr Clement Chen; Director-General of Macao Customs Service, Mr Choi Lai-hang; Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs of PRC (GAC) and Director General of Guangdong Sub-Administration of the GAC, Mr Liu Wenjie; Deputy Director of Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, Ms Guo Li; Minister of the General Administration of Customs, PRC, Mr Mu Xinsheng; Chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Mr Ian Fok Chun-wan; Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, Mr Joseph WP Wong; Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, PRC, Mr Zhou Bo; Commissioner of Customs and Excise of Hong Kong, Mr Timothy Tong; Executive Director of the Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association, Mr Wang Rong-feng; Vice-President of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, Mr Lo Chi-hong, MH.



Moderators and speakers of the Panel Discussion on "Strengthening the Cooperation between Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao Customs in Protecting Intellectual Property Rights".

(From left) President of the Hong Kong Brands Protection Alliance, Dr Lewis Luk Tei; Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation) of Hong Kong Customs, Mr Tam Yiu-keung; Chairman of the Hong Kong Intellectual Property Society, the Honourable Mrs Selina Chow Liang Shuk-ye, GBS, JP; President of the China Merchants Group, Dr Fu Yuning; Director-General of Xiamen Customs District of People's Republic of China; Mr Ding Xuehui; General Manager for Intellectual Property and Standards - China, Phillips (China) Investment Co., Ltd, Mr Jimmy Zhong.

First, we will strive for incorporation into the country's list of "e-ports" and to integrate with the electronic platform of customs agencies in the Mainland; thereby achieving a seamless e-clearance between the two sides.

Second, we will strengthen and enhance Hong Kong Customs role as a bridge linking up the domestic and foreign markets of the country.

Lastly, we will foster our liaison network with the regional customs authorities, directing our efforts against smuggling, drug trafficking and infringement of intellectual property rights.

The way forward

The year 2007 marks the joyous occasion of the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's reunification with the motherland, as well as a milestone for the future development of the department. The resounding success of the Pan-PRD Customs Trade Facilitation Forum, the commissioning of the Shenzhen Bay Port in the middle of this year and the LegCo's passage of the Import and Export (Amendment) Bill 2007 for the development of road cargo information system have added fresh impetus to the portfolio of our work and set the directions and targets of the department's future development.

Globalization and regional economic integration are prevailing trends around the

world. To C&ED, the enormous potential of the Mainland's booming economy, together with the "11th Five-year Plan" of the nation and the Pan-PRD regional co-operation have brought forth unprecedented challenges and ample room for development. Seeing this prospect, also in face of the increasing cross-boundary cargo and passenger flows, we have to discharge the dual missions of law enforcement and trade facilitation.

Being the enforcement authority guarding the gateway of the HKSAR, C&ED also serves as a bridge and tie connecting the country's market to the overseas. We are playing a dominant role in promoting the development of the national and regional economies

The C&ED has been established for nearly a century. Dear colleagues, we have to make the best of this golden opportunity. Let us join hands to move ahead at this significant moment and strive for a more glorious and splendid future for the Department.

Timothy Tong
Commissioner

Commissioner Reaffirms HK's Commitment To

IPRs Protection

Commissioner Tong reiterated to the international community that Hong Kong Customs is committed to intellectual property rights (IPRs) protection.

It continues to take stringent enforcement and roll out new initiatives, enlisting public support in promoting IPRs.

Strong-arm enforcement strategy

Delivering an opening address at an international conference co-hosted by the European Commission and Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation on March 22, Commissioner Tong highlighted that it was incumbent upon the law enforcement agencies to ensure effective protection of private property, whether it be material goods or IPRs.

The conference aimed to explore the challenges faced by the business sectors in IPR protection. The theme of this year was "intellectual property in Hong Kong and Mainland, best practices and international impact". Other keynote speakers included representatives from European Commission, World Intellectual Property Organisation and the industry.

Commissioner Tong said, "Hong Kong Customs adopts a 'strong-arm strategy' against piracy activities; combating retail black spots of pirated and counterfeit goods through 'focused and repeated raids'."

Complementing this is the invocation of the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO) to restrain criminal proceeds derived from piracy and counterfeiting activities. Since 2004, Customs has invoked OSCO six times, freezing up to \$97 million worth of assets.



Commissioner Tong (third left) sharing at the panel discussion of "The Third Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy" Hong Kong's success in enlisting support from the youth for IPR protection through the Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme.



Commissioner Tong speaking on Customs anti-piracy enforcement at the international conference co-hosted by the European Commission and Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation.

Initiative to enlist public support for IPRs protection

Earlier this year, Commissioner Tong participated in "The Third Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy". He introduced to the Congress how Hong Kong Customs has gained the support of youngsters in promoting IPRs under the Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme.

The Congress was held in Geneva from January 30 to 31 with the aim of forging partnerships between public and private sectors in the fight against piracy worldwide.

He explained that the Department had engaged the youth, the most frequent users of the Internet and the right communicators, to spread the message of "No to Counterfeiting and Piracy", which was the theme of International Customs Day 2007.

"We have achieved the short term goal of eliminating infringing seeds for file sharing on the Internet. There is a long-term objective of promoting awareness for the younger generation. We educate our Youth Ambassadors on the importance of respecting IPRs, and they help us educate their peers," Mr Tong said.

With the help of the Youth Ambassadors, accounting for about 3% of the Hong Kong population, Customs received since the launch of the scheme about 900 reports, and had 70% of the reported BT seeds eliminated. The number of infringing files uploaded from Hong Kong came down by 95%.

Information Unit

HK & Australian Customs Sign Communiqué

For Closer Co-operation

Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Timothy Tong, and the Chief Executive Officer of Australian Customs Service (ACS), Mr Michael Carmody, signed a joint communiqué for closer co-operation in a biennial meeting between the two administrations on March 27, 2007.

Under the communiqué, both sides agreed to continue the "Immediate Notification Mechanism" to enable prompt exchange of intelligence; to enhance co-operation in risk analysis and sharing of expertise; and to organise training and exchange visits.

Mr Tong and Mr Carmody expressed satisfaction over the close co-operation of both administrations. "We have successfully smashed a heroin smuggling syndicate with the help of the Immediate Notification Mechanism. The Mechanism is proven effective," Mr Tong said.



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Timothy Tong (left) and the Chief Executive Officer of Australian Customs Service, Mr Michael Carmody, signing the joint communiqué.

Mr Carmody led a five-member delegation to attend the seventh Customs-to-Customs talks in Hong Kong. After the meeting, the delegation visited the Kwai Chung Customhouse and the Customs Marine Base on Stonecutters Island.

Information Unit

LegCo Members Visit Ports & Maritime Command



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Timothy Tong (third left) with LegCo Finance Committee members, the Honourable Mr Fred Li (third right) and the Honourable Mr James To (second right) before they board a Customs sector patrol launch. First right is Head of Ports and Maritime Command, Mr Li Chun-fai.

Legislative Council Finance Committee members, the Honourable Mr Fred Li and the Honourable Mr James To, on May 17 visited Ports and Maritime Command (PMC), boarding on sector patrol launches (SPLs) to see for themselves Customs daily anti-smuggling work.

The visit took place after the Department consulted LegCo Panel on Security to replace three existing SPLs of the Damen Mark III (DM III). They had reached the end of their normal economic serviceable life of over 20 years. The funding proposal was tabled to LegCo Finance Committee, and was approved on May 25.

Welcoming both legislators, Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Timothy Tong, said, "Our anti-smuggling strategy of conducting regular patrolling and intelligence-led operations has proven effective in curtailing sea smuggling. Given the specific function of each type of the vessel, it is important to maintain the current fleet composition."

Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Chow Kwong, explained that DM III was of the size comparable to smuggling vessels, hence facilitating search and interception.

The new vessels, operating at a higher speed of 25 knots and equipped with advanced laser distance measurement device, will enhance Customs' operation at sea, including strike and search on suspicious vessels.

Information Unit

Interflow With Mainland & Overseas Counterparts

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation with other Customs administrations and law enforcement agencies in combating transnational crimes, Hong Kong Customs continues to build up closer working relationships with Mainland and overseas Customs administrations; as well as enforcement agencies around the world.

To strengthen cooperation and mutual understanding, the Department has been arranging officers to visit other Customs administrations and enforcement agencies.

Visits to Customs Counterparts Working At International Airports

Airport Command arranged several visits to counterparts working at other international airports, sharing with them experience in air cargo and passenger clearance in early 2007.

- Group Head (Air Passenger and Apron), Mr Thomas Wu, led a delegation to the Baiyun Airport and the Guangzhou Customs Post Office from January 29 to 30; while Divisional Commander (Air Cargo (Import)), Mr Au Kin-chung, and his colleagues paid another visit from March 1 to 2.

Focused on Guangzhou Customs' work against drug trafficking by air parcel and through internal concealment, the Hong Kong delegations were impressed by the close cooperation between Guangzhou Customs and post offices in exchanging air parcel information. They had a better understanding of the use of the "One-card-pass" system in directing and monitoring cargo flow.

Photo 1: Mr Au Kin-chung (third left, first row) and the delegation at the Guangzhou Customs Post Office.

- Divisional Commander (Air Cargo Research), Mr Tang Wai-kuen, and his colleagues visited Terminal 2 of Singapore Changi Airport and Changi Airfreight

Centre from January 10 to 12.

"After meeting with representatives from Immigration and Checkpoints Authority and the Singapore Customs, we learned more about their measures in speeding up air cargo and passenger clearance, including the use of advanced information system for handling express cargoes," Mr Tang said.

Photo 2: Mr Tang Wai-kuen (fourth right) with representatives of Singapore Customs at Changi Airport.

- Divisional Commander (Airport Administration), Mr Chan Hon-man, visited HM Revenue & Customs working at London Heathrow Airport and Coventry Mail Hub from January 29 to February 1.

"We had more in-depth understanding on how the use of 'Advanced Passenger Information' facilitated Customs in passenger profiling and intelligence management through the visit," Mr Chan said.

Photo 3: Mr Chan Hon-man (second left) and the delegation members discussing with HM Revenue & Customs representatives.



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- Group Head (Air Cargo), Mr Wong Man-chiu, led a delegation to visit Japan Customs and the Kansai International Airport from February 6 to 9.

"Japan Customs shared with us their experience in processing air mail and cargoes with the help of an intelligence system. It provided insights for us to further facilitate air passenger and cargo flow in Hong Kong," Mr Wong said.

Photo 1: Mr Wong Man-chiu (middle) and other delegation members pictured with Japan Customs representatives.

Visit To Singapore Sea Port

Divisional Commander (Harbour and River Trade), Mr Siu Wing-hong, and acting Senior Inspector, Mr Liu Chiu-wai of Ports and Maritime Command visited Singapore Customs as well as Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) from January 29 to 30 to study the country's sea cargo clearance work, including the use of electronic advanced cargo information system.

Photo 2: Mr Siu Wing-hong (third left) and Mr Liu Chiu-wai (third right) with representatives from ICA and Singapore Customs.

Visit to Belgian & French Customs For Liquor Valuation

To sharpen the skills in liquor valuation and

Customs fraud investigation, Staff Officer (Excise Administration), Mr Lam Tak-fai, and Senior Inspector of Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration, Mr Fung Chi-pui, visited Belgian Customs in Brussels and French Customs in Bordeaux from March 6 to 9.

"The visit has built a closer tie between Hong Kong, French and Belgian Customs, giving us a clearer understanding of the excise control system on liquor implemented in these two countries," Mr Lam said.

Photo 3: Mr Lam Tak-fai (first left) and Mr Fung Chi-pui (first right) with Bordeaux Customs officers.

Visit to Cruise Terminals in Naples and Miami

Senior Staff Officer (Planning and Development), Mr Ho Ka-ying, Assistant Staff Officer (Planning and Development), Mr Alexis Tse and Senior Inspector, Mr Andrew Pong, paid a six-day visit to cruise terminals in Naples and Miami to study overseas experience in management, operation and security arrangement of cruise terminals.

The delegation visited Naples Customs, Port Authority of Naples and US Customs and Border Protection. It would help Hong Kong Customs plan for the new cruise terminal, which would be built at the Kai Tak airport runway.

Photo 4: Mr Ho Ka-ying (middle) examining the model of the Port of Naples.



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Visit By Counterparts & Enforcement Agencies

The work of Hong Kong Customs has long been recognised by overseas counterparts and enforcement agencies.

For more in-depth understanding of the Department's anti-smuggling work, delegations from Korea and Australian Customs Service, as well as Export Control and Sanctions Department of Switzerland, paid visits to Ports and Maritime Command (PMC) in March and April.

Visit By Korea & Australian Customs Service

Head of Ports and Maritime Command, Mr Li Chun-fai, received a delegation of Australian Customs Service, led by its Chief Executive Officer, Mr Michael Carmody, on March 27.

"Mr Carmody and his delegation were impressed by the achievement made by Hong Kong Customs in combating smuggling activities by way of containers," Mr Li said.

On April 26, Divisional Commander (Container Terminals), Mr Lam Kam-chi, was delighted to meet with Deputy Director of Korea Customs Service, Mr Kim Man-suk and his delegation.

Mr Lam shared with them PMC's enforcement strategies and experience in mounting operations.

During their visits to Customs Marine Base at Stonecutters Island, both delegations boarded a Customs launch for hands-on experience of PMC's work.

Visit By Export Control & Sanctions Department of Switzerland

Head of Export Control and Sanctions Department

of Switzerland, Dr Othmar Wyss, and Head of Export Control Policy Division, Mr Erwin Bollinger, met with Group Head (Ports Control), Mr Liu Hon-chun, on April 16.

"In light of large container throughput handled by Hong Kong, Mr Wyss and Mr Bollinger displayed interest in knowing how Hong Kong Customs maintained effective cargoes clearance, combating smuggling activities while facilitating trade," Mr Liu said.

Demonstration on the use of advanced cargo examination equipments, including the mobile X-ray vehicle scanning system was arranged.

Photo 1: Mr Li Chun-fai (left) explaining to Mr Michael Carmody our anti-smuggling strategies.

Photo 2: Mr Lam Kam-chi (right) briefing Mr Kim Man-suk (second right) and his delegation how PMC carried out the cargo clearance work.

Photo 3: Mr Liu Hon-chun (centre) and Mr Lam Kam-chi (first right) with Dr Othmar Wyss (third left) and Mr Erwin Bollinger (second left) at Kwai Chung Customhouse. Standing first left is Assistant Trade Commissioner, Mr Chan Wing-kai.



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Participation In International Conference

Hong Kong Customs has established strong exchange networks with the Mainland and overseas Customs administrations or enforcement agencies for combating transnational crimes through meetings and international conferences.

APEC Sub-Committee On Customs Procedures Meeting

Head of Control Points Command, Mr Ko Chi-lok, and Senior Inspector, Ms Mark Vincie flew to Canberra of Australia for the first 2007 APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) meeting, which was held from January 21 to 24.

Hong Kong Customs proposed at the meeting to study the impact of cyber crime on Customs work, which became an item for further discussion.

Photo 1: Mr Ko Chi-lok (fourth right, second row) with other participants of the meeting.

WCO Integrity Sub-Committee Meeting

Senior Staff Officer (Management Services), Ms Kwok Ngan-ping, participated in the 7th Session of the WCO Integrity Sub-Committee Meeting to exchange views with other Customs administrations on developing integrity tools. The Meeting was held in Brussels from March 5 to 6.

"As Hong Kong Customs has introduced staff integrity programme for a number of years, the Department was among the six administrations which have submitted to WCO an integrity case study. The

study will serve as a development tool by WCO," Ms Kwok highlighted.

Photo 2: Ms Kwok Ngan-ping (second left) with the Chairperson of the WCO Integrity Sub-Committee, Mr Dato Razak (second right) and delegates from Malaysia.

WCO Management Committee Meeting

Group Head (Customs Liaison), Mr Chiu Bit-yuen and Inspector, Ms Maggie Tse, attended three international meetings, namely, the 2nd Management Committee Meeting of the Revised Kyoto Convention of the World Customs Organization (WCO), the 178th Session of the Permanent Technical Committee of the WCO, and Global Facilitation Partnership for Transportation and Trade Meeting, which were held in Brussels from March 12 to 16.

"We have been kept informed of the latest development in WCO, particularly on development of trade facilitation measures" Mr Chiu remarked.

Photo 3: Mr Chiu Bit-yuen (right) and Ms Maggie Tse at 2nd Management Committee Meeting of the Revised Kyoto Convention of WCO.



International Drug Enforcement Conference

Divisional Commander (Airport Investigation), Mr Donald Wong, participated in the International Drug Enforcement Conference Far East Working Group Meeting to exchange intelligence with representatives of anti-narcotics agencies in the Far East Asia region.

Jointly organised by the Indonesian National Police and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the meeting was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from March 20 to 21.

Photo 1: Mr Donald Wong (right) with other representative at the International Drug Enforcement Conference Far East Working Group Meeting.



Cigarette Notification Mechanism Review Meeting

Led by Senior Staff Officer (Dutiable Commodities Administration), Mr Albert Ho, a delegation from Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration held the Cigarette Notification Mechanism Review Meeting with Mainland Customs in Dalian on May 17 and 18.

“The Meeting has fostered closer cooperation between both sides in combating cigarette smuggling, strengthening risk profiling of suspicious consignments and exchange of intelligence,” Mr Ho said.

Representatives from Shenzhen, Xiamen, Shanghai and Dalian Customs also attended the Meeting.

Photo 2: Mr Albert Ho (fourth right) discussing with representatives of Mainland Customs on anti-smuggling work.



Training

Hong Kong Customs attaches great importance to staff training, equipping officers of various grades with professional skills to embrace challenges ahead and maintain the Department's vision of “striving for excellence”. The Department also encourages officers to further their studies to keep abreast of the latest trend relevant to Customs work.



Risk Assessment, Profiling & Targeting Workshop

Group Head (Risk Management), Mr Chan Wing-kin and Divisional Commander (Strategic Intelligence and Support), Mr Leung Tak-yin took part in a five-day workshop held by University of Canberra, Australia in January this year.

"Introducing prevailing risk management concepts from WCO, the workshop was aimed to sharpen our skills in risk assessment, risk profiling and targeting high-risk areas. This helped Hong Kong Customs keeping a balance between law enforcement and trade facilitation," Mr Chan said.

Photo: Mr Chan Wing-kin (third left) and Mr Leung Tak-yin (second left) with the lecturers and other participants of the workshop.

Dog Unit Manager Course

Senior Inspector of Customs Detector Dog Unit, Mr Stephen Ng, took a three-week "Dog Unit Manager Course" at the Surrey Police Dog Training School in England from January 29 to February 16.

"The course provided me with an opportunity to learn from the dog specialists essential skills for a professional dog unit manager, from selection of dog handlers and detector dogs, training schemes to team management," Mr Ng said.

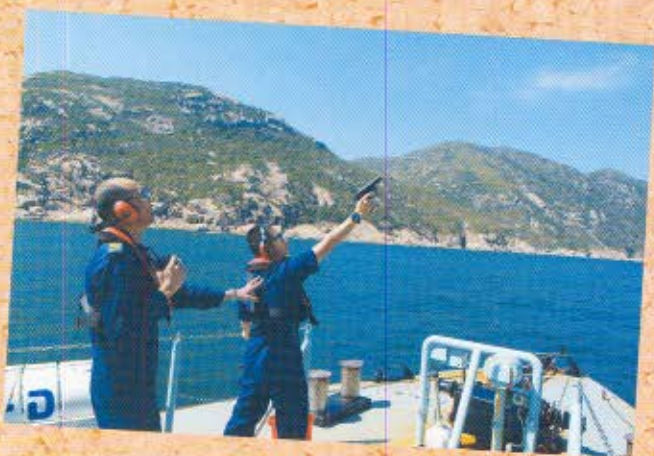
Photo: Mr Stephen Ng (first right) attending the graduation ceremony at the Surrey Police Dog Training School.

Marine Safety Survival Drills

Marine Enforcement Group (MEG) of Ports and Maritime Command organised for 90 officers two Survival Drills off south Lamma Island and Junk Bay on February 5 and 7 to enhance Customs mariners' awareness in marine safety precautions.

Through live firing of the signal pistol, hand flares and parachute flares, frontline officers familiarised themselves with the use of survival equipments and pyrotechnic ammunition in emergency situations.

Photo: A MEG officer firing a signal pistol onboard a sector patrol launch.



Strategic Trade Enforcement Training

Senior Trade Controls Officer of General Investigation and Systems Bureau, Mr Chan Chi-man, and Inspector from Ports and Maritime Command, Ms Cheung Wan-ki, attended a five-day training course, organised by Australian Customs Service, in Canberra and Sydney, Australia from March 12 to 16 to better understand strategic commodities licensing and control systems of Customs counterpart.

“The training enabled us to visit Customs Container Examination Facility, Customs Seaport and International Airport to understand how our counterpart made use of intelligence and advanced technology to maintain export control,” Mr Chan said.

Photo 1: Mr Chan Chi-man (second right) and Ms Cheung Wan-ki (second left) with representatives



from Australian Customs Service.

Induction Training For New Recruits Of Assistant Trade Controls Officers

Twelve newly recruited Assistant Trade Controls Officers took part in a 26-week Induction Course starting on March 26.

Welcoming the new recruits, Head of Trade Controls, Mr Cheung Sai-yan said, “Apart from lectures, you will acquire hands-on experience from serving officers through work placement in the Trade Controls Branch, paving your way to become part of the professional league.”

Photo 2: Head of Trade Controls, Mr Cheung Sai-yan (centre, front row) and Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development), Mr William Leung (third left, front row) with the new recruits.



Partnering With The Industry

Hong Kong Customs maintains close cooperation with the industry, holding seminars and meetings with them to enhance their understanding of Customs' role in fighting smuggling activities while facilitating legitimate trade.

Seminar On Control Of Precursor Chemicals

Controlled Chemicals Group of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau held a seminar, the first of its kind, on “Control of Precursor Chemicals in Hong Kong” for local shipping companies and cargo handling agents on March 27.

“Targeting the industry players of controlled chemicals, the seminar aims at heightening the awareness of licensing requirements of controlled chemicals in Hong Kong, forging partnership with the private sector in combating trafficking of precursor chemicals,” Group Head (Controlled Chemicals), Mr Chan Yiu-wah said.