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THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

2009 is a particularly meaningful year for the Hong Kong Customs. It marks the centenary of the establishment of the Preventive Service – the progenitor of the modern day Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department. In this issue of Customs News, we will reflect on the development and transformation of customs service in Hong Kong over the past 100 years and highlight a series of activities that we will organise in the next few months to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

Over the past century, the Hong Kong Customs has transformed – together with the Hong Kong economy – from a humble “tax collector” (as most customs officers were seen as in the old days) to one of the most efficient and highly regarded customs services in the world.

The world history of customs service goes back more than two thousand years. Customs service is often one of the first and hence oldest public agencies set up in many governments. This is not surprising given that income and profits tax was a relatively recent invention. In ancient time, when government needed extra money to finance its activities, it often looked to the foreign merchants who brought goods into its territories – as foreigners had little say and politically it is much easier to tax outsiders than your own people.

The history of the Hong Kong Customs Service (or the Preventive Service during most part of its history) is intertwined with not only the history of Hong Kong but also that of the Mainland of China. During the upheavals in the twilight years of the Qing Dynasty and the subsequent turmoil of the First and Second World Wars, Hong Kong remained a free port and played a key role in ensuring trade continued to flow between China and the rest of world. The involvement of the Preventive Service in the control of the opium trade and, later, the fight against drug abuse constitutes an important chapter in the recent history of China.

Over the past century, the role of the Hong Kong Customs has undergone a major transformation. Hong Kong has benefited tremendously from the opening up and rapid expansion of the Mainland economy. The Hong Kong Customs Service has responded to this new development by constantly adjusting its role and responsibilities to meet the new challenges and demands of society.

The Hong Kong Customs stands apart from many customs services in the world in that “tax collection” accounts for no more than a miniscule part of its work. Today, the responsibilities of the Hong Kong Customs Service range from customs clearance to anti-smuggling, to drug prevention, to



intellectual property rights (IPR) protection, to safeguard consumer rights and safety of consumer products, and to enforcement of the Textiles Control System and the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA).

1909 – 2009 has marked a century of dedicated service of the Hong Kong Customs. Beginning with a small team of 25 officers in the then Preventive Service, the Hong Kong Customs today comprises 5500 well-trained, professional, dedicated customs and trade controls officers. Throughout the last 100 years, the Hong Kong Customs has served Hong Kong with a culture of “Commitment and Excellence”. This is the motto of the department and will remain the motto of all officers of the Hong Kong Customs in serving Hong Kong and its people in the next century and beyond.

Richard Yuen
Commissioner

MILESTONES OF HK CUSTOMS IN THE PAST 100 YEARS



The first Superintendent and staff of the Imports and Exports Department.

The Customs and Excise Department can trace its history back to the Preventive Service which was founded in 1909. At that time, the Service was just a small unit comprising five European officers and 20 Chinese searchers who were responsible to the Superintendent of the then Imports and Exports Department. It has since then come a long way from being a tiny force with a sole duty of protecting revenue on liquors to an independent department nowadays with more than 5600 officers. It has also evolved to be one of the major law enforcement agencies in Hong Kong with diverse responsibilities of anti-smuggling; protection and collection of revenue on dutiable goods; detection and deterrence of drug trafficking and abuse of controlled drugs; protection of intellectual property rights and consumer interests; and protection and facilitation of legitimate trade and maintenance of Hong Kong's trading integrity. In the last 100 years, the Department has been keeping abreast of changing times and ready to face the emerging challenges and difficulties. Every milestone in the Customs' history depicts how our dedicated Customs officers in different decades coped with the changing socio-economic situations of Hong Kong and made valuable contributions.

Forerunner of Customs and Excise Department – Establishment of Preventive Service (1909 – 1950)

The Preventive Service was established on September 17, 1909, the very day on which the Liquors Ordinance was enacted to empower the Revenue Officers to protect and collect the newly imposed duty on liquors. With more commodities like tobacco and hydrocarbon oil falling into the category of dutiable goods in 1916 and 1930 respectively, the scope of control of the Service on revenue protection had been broadened.

In 1914, additional responsibilities relating to the Government Opium Monopoly were assigned to the Service. At that time, the monopoly of opium was handled by the Imports and Exports Department. Apart from increasing revenue through the opium monopoly, the Service's another major task was to suppress the illicit opium trafficking.

During the First World War (1914-1918), the Service played another key role of prohibiting the essential commodities, precious metals and firearms from being exported to the enemies of Britain and its allies. Similar wartime measures were re-introduced during the Second World War (1939-1945) and the Korean War (1950-1953).

A long battle against heroin began in 1923 after the heroin made its first appearance in Hong Kong. Other than the monopolised opium, the Service dedicated itself to ward off the smuggling of illicit opium and heroin into Hong Kong.

In the 1930s, the preferential tariff

system was introduced to help develop local industry. The Service was tasked with inspecting factories and goods and verifying the origins of the goods so that the goods produced in Hong Kong could enjoy preferential entry to some western countries. Post-war trade controls were also imposed by implementing the Certification of Origin System, the Textile Export Control System and the Strategic Trade Control System so as to ensure Hong Kong's fulfillment of international obligations as well as bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. All of the above trade controls are of immense importance to Hong Kong's economic development.

During the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong in the Second World War, the Service was disbanded temporarily. After the War, Hong Kong was facing a severe shortage of goods and raw materials. At that time, the Service was re-established to impose controls on dutiable goods and maintain the local supplies. Besides, with the abolition of opium monopoly and the handing over of Service's anti-drug responsibility within the territories to the Police, the Service's main task was to combat drug-smuggling.

Work Development and New Challenges (1950 - 1977)

The drug problem became more serious in Hong Kong in the 1950s. The Service not only stepped up its efforts to intercept the influx of drug into Hong Kong by sea from the Golden Triangle but also monitored any illicit transportation of raw materials for drug manufacturing, including acetic anhydride which was widely used in the manufacturing of heroin at that time.



Destroying opium by dumping (1949).

An outbreak of methyl alcohol poisoning in 1956 resulted in the imposition of duty on methyl alcohol in the following year as a disincentive to misuse and a measure to prevent further abuse. Since then, the Service shouldered the responsibility for public health protection. Nonetheless, controls on methyl alcohol had to be re-introduced in 1976 after the abolition of its duty in 1972 when similar poisoning incidents took place again.

The implementation of the Preventive Service Ordinance in 1963 gave the Service the legal status to make regulations on its discipline, functions, powers and terms of service. In the same year, the Service introduced controls on the marking and colouring of hydrocarbon oil and adopted measures to prevent the illegal use of industrial hydrocarbon oil with tax concession by law-breakers.



Checking passenger baggage during the 1960s.

By the early 1970s, the Service faced various additional challenges from work. Firstly, the Service was given greater enforcement powers, enabling them, as the Police, to detect and conduct raids against

drug trafficking activities in Hong Kong. Secondly, the essential task of curbing the infringement of copyright and trademark counterfeiting in Hong Kong was taken over from the Police by the Service in 1974. Since then, the Department has been devoted to protecting Hong Kong's reputation as a shopping paradise for genuine goods. Our strenuous efforts to fight against all kinds of piracy activities prevailed in different times were never feeble — from combating a flood of pirated musical and video cassette tapes and fake expensive handbags in the market in the 1980s to smashing underground manufacturing plants of pirated CDs in the 1990s and suppressing internet piracy activities of illegal uploading of movies for public sharing with Bit Torrent technology in recent years — we could always keep the piracy problem firmly under control.

New Era after Preventive Service renamed Customs (1977 – 1997)

In 1977, the Preventive Service was renamed the Customs and Excise Service, making its name in line with other customs agencies all around the world. On August 1, 1982, the Customs and Excise Service was detached from the Trade Industry and Customs Department and became an independent department.

The early 1980s saw a serious economic recession which badly hit the economy of Hong Kong. The ad valorem duty system was therefore introduced in 1984, aimed at increasing the public revenue. One of the advantages of this duty system is while a higher duty was put on the more expensive brands of wine and spirits consumed by the well-off than the less expensive types, it did not increase the burden on the general public. On the other hand, revising the duty rate by

amendment of legislation to achieve stability on government revenue was not necessary because there was an adjustment mechanism between the ad valorem duty system and the movements of prices. Valuation and verification of liquor prices became the effective instruments to detect and deter tax evasion and protect the source of revenue. Another short-term fiscal measure put forward by the Government and carried out by the Department to increase the government revenue was to collect duty on cosmetics and non-alcoholic beverages in 1985. The measure was adopted until 1992 when Hong Kong's economy was fully recovered.

In 1989, a financial investigation body was set up within the Department to investigate and confiscate the drug proceeds of drug traffickers. Such investigation power was later extended to cover other proceeds of serious and organised offences of piracy and smuggling in 1995.

With the growing prosperity in southern China in the 1990s, smuggling of luxury items such as electrical appliances and stolen vehicles by “Tai Fei” (high-powered speedboats) at sea from Hong Kong to the Mainland was rampant. Equipped with speedboats of the same speed for interception and coupled with active participation in the inter-departmental special task force, our anti-smuggling efforts to root out “Tai Fei” problem won wide recognition.

Customs after Reunification (1997 - 2009)

Following the reunification of Hong Kong with the motherland in 1997, the Department reached another peak. After the reunification in 1997, the Department has dedicated itself to making contributions by maintaining Hong Kong Special



Officers seize pirated musical cassette tapes found at a street stall (1975).

Administrative Region's (HKSAR) status as a separate customs territory in accordance with the Basic Law. The Commissioner of Customs and Excise is one of the 20 Principal Officials in the HKSAR Government. This reflects the importance of the Department in the HKSAR Government.

Hong Kong had been put in a list of "major drug transit centres" by the US Government since 1987. With a view to regaining Hong Kong's reputation, the Department sought active co-operation with local and overseas law enforcement agencies in combating drug trafficking, confiscating drug proceeds, monitoring the transportation of chemical precursors and arresting fugitive global drug offenders. The Department's comprehensive anti-narcotics system and the remarkable results achieved over a decade strongly impressed the US Government which eventually removed Hong Kong from the list of "major drug transit centres" in 2000.

Entering the 21st Century, the Department has successfully transformed from a pure law enforcement agency to a modernised Customs force that discharges the dual missions of law enforcement and trade facilitation.

In 2002, the Department embarked on an innovative intelligence-based mode of operation which enhanced the use of intelligence and risk

management in customs operations so as to stamp out smuggling on the one hand and attain the goal of facilitating legitimate trade on the other.

On trade facilitation and customs clearance at control points, in order to enhance people and cargo flows and keep pace with Hong Kong's economic development, new initiatives, including the introduction of high-tech and non-intrusive inspection facilities, automated clearance systems, simplified customs procedures and various trade facilitation measures, were proactively adopted by the Department. Notable examples are the newly developed computerised Land Boundary System, Unified Road Cargo Manifest, mutual recognition of green customs seals, Automatic Vehicle Recognition System and fixed and mobile X-ray Inspection Systems for containers which have substantially shortened the clearance time for cross-boundary trucks. On the other hand, the implementation of the Red and Green Channel System at entry points has facilitated passenger clearance and brought Hong Kong in line with international practices. The innovative Electronic Data Interchange - Dutiable Commodities Permits System and Open Bond System have lowered the operating cost of the industry and enhanced the transparency of customs clearance procedures for dutiable commodities trade.

On international and regional co-operation, the Department joined the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 1987. Over the years, it has been actively participating in the affairs of the WCO. Between 2000 and 2002, it was elected as the organisation's vice-chair and was responsible for co-ordinating the co-operation among the customs administrations of the member countries/territories

in the Asia Pacific Region, as well as implementing the various measures formulated by the WCO for combating transnational and cross-boundary organised crimes and facilitating international trade. In addition, the Department has also actively participated in the work of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation's (APEC) Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures to assist in simplifying the clearance procedures and to promote co-operation between customs administrations and the business sector. In the recent years, in support of the Mainland's 11th Five-Year Plan and long-term development of the economy and trade in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region, the Department has further reinforced its co-operation with the Mainland Customs by jointly formulating and implementing various clearance facilitation initiatives for cross-boundary cargoes, thus contributing to the economic and logistics development of the region.

Summing Up and Looking Forward

The year 2009 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Customs. Looking back, we proudly see that the Department's contributions resulted in the success of Hong Kong as a free port, an international trade centre and an Asia's logistics hub in the past century. We have been playing an indispensable role and making enormous contributions. So, what will the next 100 years bring? Let everyone of us in the Department work with commitment and excellence and continue to provide the public with quality service. We are confident that today's hardworking and innovation will be the milestones for our future.

**Office of Service
Administration**

CURTAIN GOES UP FOR HK CUSTOMS' CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Hong Kong Customs is launching a series of activities to celebrate its centenary this year. To set the celebratory programme in motion, three competitions — centennial logo design, theme slogan and photography — have been successfully held. The competitions got an enthusiastic response with altogether over 260 entries received from staff members.

To enhance public understanding of Hong Kong's Customs services, the Department will host an exhibition in September to showcase the significant developments and milestones of Customs services in the past century. A cocktail reception will be

held on September 17, 2009, the Department's 100th birthday, to mark the special moment. On the same day, we will join hands with Hongkong Post to issue a commemorative stamp set.

Hong Kong Customs has also kick-started preparatory work to support a local publisher to publish a 100th anniversary book which gives a historical account of Hong Kong Customs services. We are also working with RTHK to produce a TV documentary drama series featuring the different facets of law enforcement work of Customs. The TV programme series is expected to be broadcasted later in the year.

To add to the joyous atmosphere, a number of recreational and social functions will be held for the participation and reunion of the Department's serving and retired staff members. Representatives of other Customs counterparts will also be invited to share our joy at this memorable moment.

Centenary celebration of its establishment takes Hong Kong Customs to another century of dedicated service. We urge colleagues to take part in the once-in-a-lifetime celebration at this historical point of time.

Activities being lined up include :

Activity	Month 2009
Centennial Mess Night	June
Centennial Gala Day	August
Centennial Exhibition	September
Centennial Cocktail Reception	September
CESSOM Centennial Dinner	December

CENTENNIAL LOGO AND THEME SLOGAN

Champions of the centennial logo design and theme slogan competitions went to Senior Customs Officer Chan Wai-chung and Inspector Chee Chun-hung respectively. The winning entries

were first introduced to the media by the Commissioner at the Year-end Review Press Conference on January 22, 2009, marking the launch of the Department's centenary celebration.

Logo Design Competition



Winning Logo :

Winner : Senior Customs Officer Chan Wai-chung

Theme Slogan Competition

Winning Slogan : 百載服務獻香江 護法守關盡擔當

Winner : Inspector Chee Chun-hung



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, with the winning entries of the centennial logo and theme slogan.

HK AND MAINLAND CUSTOMS HOLD ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING

The 2008 Annual Review Meeting between the Hong Kong Customs and the General Administration of Customs (GAC) of the People's Republic of China was held in Hong Kong between February 22 and 25, 2009.



Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (right), and Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Sheng Guangzu (left) at the opening ceremony.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, and the Minister of GAC, Mr Sheng Guangzu, officiated at the opening of the meeting.

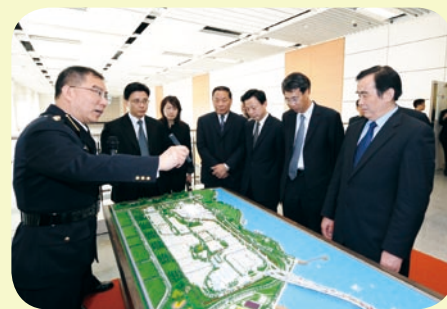
The meeting reviewed the results of co-operation between the two administrations on various fronts in

the past year and mapped out the co-operation plan for 2009.

The 2009 Co-operation Plan covered a number of topics, including the enhancement of customs clearance efficiency; intelligence exchange and enforcement co-operation; the strengthening of co-operation in electronic customs clearance and the co-operation under the framework of CEPA; the



The Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Sheng Guangzu (right) pays a courtesy call on the Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mr Donald Tsang (left).



Head of Land Boundary Command, Mr Ben Leung (first left) briefs Minister of General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Sheng Guangzu (first right) on the Shenzhen Bay Control Point.

continuation of co-operation on the exchange of wine data; the exploration of measures to promote HKSAR as the red wine trading centre; and the arrangement for seminars, training and visits.

During his stay in Hong Kong, Mr Sheng paid a courtesy call on the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr Donald Tsang, and visited the Shenzhen Bay Control Point.

HK CUSTOMS STRENGTHENS CO-OPERATION WITH ITALY'S GUARDIA DI FINANZA



The Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Guardia di Finanza of Italy, Lieutenant General Cosimo D'Arrigo, sign a Work Plan in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Customs and the Guardia di Finanza of Italy pledged

to strengthen co-operation in fighting transnational customs crimes by signing a Work Plan on Co-operation Against Contravention of Customs Laws on March 25, 2009 in Hong Kong.

The Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Guardia di Finanza of Italy, Lieutenant General Cosimo D'Arrigo, signed the work plan.

"The signing of the Work Plan on Co-operation Against Contravention of Customs Laws

signifies Hong Kong and Italy's commitment and determination to combat transnational smuggling and criminal activities. It also marks the common wish of both administrations to co-operate more closely in the fight against smuggling activities through an effective framework," said Mr Yuen at the ceremony.

Hong Kong Customs, so far, has signed similar co-operative arrangements with 15 customs administrations, including the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China.

HK CUSTOMS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, officiated at a cocktail reception to celebrate the 2009 International Customs Day (ICD) on January 19, 2009.

The theme of this year's ICD is "Customs and the Environment: Protecting our Natural Heritage", which is aimed at promoting international co-operation in combating environmental crimes.

Addressing the reception, Mr Tsang called on all governments, individuals and corporations to act in concert to alleviate the problem for the benefit of our future generations.

"Environmental protection is one

of the top priorities for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. We have been taking the lead in addressing local and regional environmental concerns in collaboration with other key stakeholders," Mr Tsang said.

During the ceremony, 10 Hong Kong Customs officers were awarded the World Customs Organization Certificate of Merit in recognition of their notable contributions to the green cause.

About 300 guests, including Executive and Legislative



The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang (fifth left) and Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (fourth left) with the Hong Kong Customs officers who are awarded the World Customs Organization Certificates of Merit for their contributions to the green cause.

Council members, government officials, Consuls General, foreign Customs attaches, and Customs representatives from the Mainland and Macau joined the event.

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENCOURAGES NEW RECRUITS

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau, officiated at a passing-out parade for probationary inspectors and customs officers on November 28, 2008.

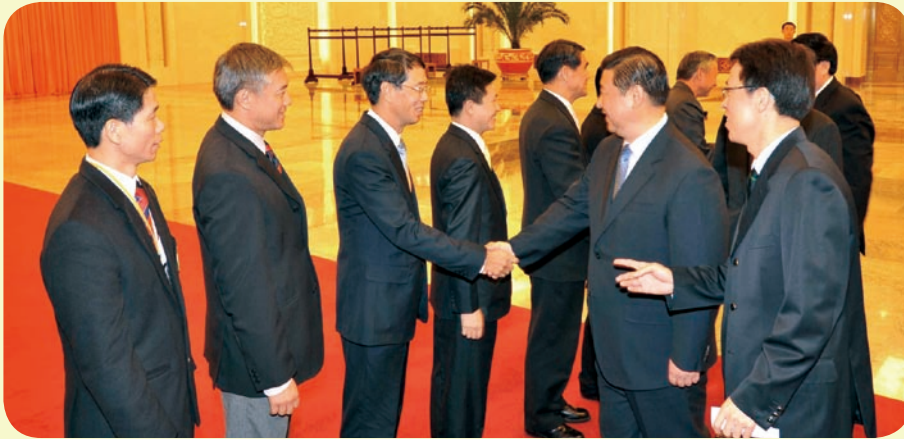
Addressing the ceremony, Mrs Lau praised the Hong Kong Customs for its good services which had gained recognition from international communities and the local public. She also encouraged the new officers to do their utmost to help keep the reputation by serving the community in a professional manner.

The new officers, including 39 probationary inspectors and 91 customs officers, had been posted to different formations.



The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau, inspects the probationary inspectors and customs officers at the passing-out parade.

2008 HK DISCIPLINED SERVICES CULTURAL EXCHANGE DELEGATION



Vice-President of the People's Republic of China, Mr Xi Jinping (second right) meets the Hong Kong Disciplined Services Cultural Exchange Delegation at the Great Hall of the People. Among the delegation members is Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (third left).



Director General of Anti-Smuggling Bureau, General Administration of Customs, PRC, Mr Jin Shifeng (right), presents a souvenir to Hong Kong Customs delegation leader, Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Yu Koon-hing.

Led by the Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose S K Lee, the “2008 Hong Kong Disciplined Services Cultural Exchange Delegation” visited Beijing, Zhejiang Province and Shanghai from October 26 to November 1, 2008. Through the visit and exchange programmes, the delegation gained a better understanding of the Mainland from its reforms in the 1980s to the latest developments, and strengthened the communication and co-operation between Hong Kong disciplined services and their counterparts in the Mainland.

The delegation comprised members from five disciplined services, including Customs and Excise Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Immigration Department, Fire Services Department, and Correctional Services Department. The Customs’ delegation was led by the Commissioner, Mr Richard Yuen, Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Yu Koon-hing, and Superintendent (Customs Liaison), Mr Ng Yan-kwong. It consisted of 21 members from various formations.

The Hong Kong Cultural Exchange Delegation was met by the Vice-President of the People’s Republic of China, Mr Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. At the meeting, Mr Xi encouraged the delegation members and conveyed his three expectations to the Hong Kong disciplined services. The expectations were, firstly, to further contribute to the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong; secondly, to deliver a better quality service to the general public of Hong Kong; and thirdly, to enhance the exchange and experience sharing between the Mainland and Hong Kong disciplined services.

The 7-day programme included visits to various historic spots, city attractions and private enterprises. Moreover, the delegation met with senior officials of the local government and Public Security Offices, including the General Administration of Customs, Zhejiang Customs and Shanghai Customs. The visits have enabled the Customs’ delegation members to have direct exchanges with Customs officials in the Mainland and to get a deeper understanding of the recent developments of the Mainland Customs, which will enhance enforcement effectiveness of both sides.



Hong Kong Customs Delegation with Shanghai Customs during the visit in Shanghai.

HK CUSTOMS HOSTS THE 6TH HEADS OF WCO ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES MEETING



Acting Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Luke Au Yeung (sixth left, front row), with Senior Officers of the Department and delegates of the 6th Heads of WCO Asia Pacific Regional Training Centres Meeting.

Hong Kong Customs hosted the 6th Heads of World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia Pacific Regional Training Centres (RTCs) Meeting on December 22 and 23, 2008. A total of 13 participants representing the Regional Office for Capacity Building Asia Pacific (ROCB A/P), the five RTCs in China, HKSAR, India, Japan and Malaysia, as well as

the Korea Customs Service attended the meeting.

Chaired by Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human Resources Development), Mr Leung Koon-wah, the 2-day meeting discussed and resolved a number of issues. These included the ways to review and enhance

the role and activities of the ROCB and RTCs, to develop each RTC's specialty as the Centre of Excellence, to increase the number of regional expert trainers, to promote the use of e-learning modules, to expand the study and research function of the RTCs, and to revise the RTC's Compendium and Best Practice for Customs Training Centres.

In the meeting, ROCB had updated participants on the progress of WCO capacity building activities such as the Columbus Programme and the latest regional activities discussed at the Regional Contact Points Meeting in November 2008. Hong Kong Customs also shared its training policy and activities with the participants.



Mr Leung Koon-wah (fourth right), chairs the meeting.

STAFF MOTIVATION SCHEME — ODCA INTER-DIVISION QUIZ COMPETITION

The Staff Motivation Scheme, launched by the Civil Service Bureau, is aimed at promoting staff awareness of the commitment to their respective department's performance pledges and motivating staff to improve their service for the community.

Under the Staff Motivation Scheme, the Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration (ODCA) held an Inter-Division Quiz Competition on March 2, 2009. The objective was to enhance officers' understanding of the different areas of excise control duties undertaken by ODCA so

as to strengthen their professional knowledge in the control of dutiable commodities.

A total of five teams comprising officers from various divisions joined in the competition. There was keen competition and all participants displayed expert knowledge in various spectrums.

The Chief Adjudicator of the competition, Acting Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Ho Ka-ying, extended his congratulations to the winning teams and encouraged officers to

continue to take part actively in these meaningful activities.



Mr Ho Ka-ying, (first right), presents a trophy to the winning team.

OPMS OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



About 100 frontline officers of RGIB and PMC participate in the programme on “Giving Evidence in Court”.

The Office of Prosecution and Management Support (OPMS) launched two outreach

programmes on “Giving Evidence in Court” for officers of Revenue and General Investigation Bureau (RGIB)

and Ports and Maritime Command (PMC) at Middle Road Offices and Kwai Chung Customhouse on November 19, 2008 and January 22, 2009 respectively.

The Programme was aimed to enrich the frontline officers’ knowledge of court proceedings and skills of giving evidence in court through the analysis of acquittal cases and the proffered tips for prosecution witnesses.

Through the discussion forum on various court cases, the officers had enriched their understanding of the requirements and skills for prosecution witnesses. About 100 frontline officers of RGIB and PMC participated in the programmes.

AWARD OF CERTIFICATES FROM OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL

Hong Kong Customs is committed to promoting occupational safety and health.

Adopting a holistic approach with consultancy services from the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC), Customs kick-started the test runs of the 14-element Safety Management and Health System (SMHS) in 2007. A series of tailor-made safety training was also organised to equip frontline staff with the required knowledge and skills.

On January 8, 2009, the Ports and Marine Command (PMC) and the Office of Prosecution and Management Support (OPMS) were awarded the “Level Two” Certificates of the Continual



Group Head of PMC, Mr Liu Hon-chun (left) receives the certificate from the Executive Director of OSHC, Mr Tang Wah-shing.

Improvement Safety Programme Recognition of System of the OSHC, after being confirmed by the OSHC

that they have conformed to the requirements on planning, developing and maintaining of SMHS.

TRAINING ON FRAUD EXAMINATION

Inspector of the Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration (ODCA), Ms Carrie Chu, attended the Principles of Fraud Examination Course in Austin, the United States, from December 15 to 18, 2008, to strengthen her skills in identifying potential fraud offenders and planning the operations of revenue fraud cases.

The course was organised by Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), which is a premier provider of anti-fraud training for law enforcement officers worldwide. It was the first time for Hong Kong Customs officer to attend the ACFE training.



Ms Carrie Chu (first left) exchanges views with other participants at a discussion session.

CUSTOMS COMMAND COURSE



Group photo of 20 promoted officers with Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human Resources Development), Mr Leung Koon-wah (seventh left, front row) and various speakers.

The Office of Training and Development (OTD) organised the 11th Customs Command Course for 20 newly promoted Senior Inspectors and Senior Trade Controls Officers from December 4 to 24, 2008, in order to equip officers with modern

management skills and knowledge.

The course covered different topics, including “Leadership & Organisational Culture”, “Capturing the Media”, “Enhancing EQ at Work”, and “Productive Negotiation”.

Various speakers specialised in different fields, including renowned director, news anchors, media trainer, and famous writers and columnists were invited to introduce new concepts and valuable insights to the participants.

EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO 2009

Hong Kong Customs participated in the Education and Careers Expo 2009 from February 19 to 22, 2009.

A booth on Customs' works and recruitment information was set up by the Office of Training and Development, the Office of Service Administration and the Trade Controls Branch at the Expo. Officers with Customs drug detector dogs also stationed at the booth to explain their job duty to the visitors.

As the year 2009 is the Customs Centennial Anniversary, there was also an exhibition on the history of Hong Kong Customs.



The Customs booth at the Career Expo.

The Education and Careers Expo 2009, organised by Hong Kong Trade Development Council, was well-received with over 100,000 visitors.



Deputy Commissioner, Mr Luke Au Yeung (left), accompanied by Senior Staff Officer, Mr Liu Cheung-shing (right), visits the booth.

HK CUSTOMS OFFICER CONVEYS SPECIAL OLYMPICS “FLAME OF HOPE”

The Head of Airport Command, Mr Daniel Tam, joined the Final Leg Team of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics in the United States from January 29 to February 7, 2009 to deliver the “Flame of Hope” to Boise, Idaho, where the Opening Ceremony of the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games was held.

The “Flame of Hope”, which

advocates support, encouragement and love from the general public for persons with intellectual disabilities, is a symbol to break down barriers between the general public and the unfortunate.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run comprised runners from the law enforcement communities all over the world, and it was Hong Kong Customs' honour that its officer, Mr Tam, to be

the only runner from Hong Kong to participate in the Final Leg Team.



Mr Tam (front row, right) represents Hong Kong Customs to deliver the “Flame of Hope”.

HK CUSTOMS STRENGTHENS CO-OPERATION WITH TOBACCO INDUSTRY



Mr Tam (second left) signs an agreement with representatives of the tobacco industry.

Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Tam Yiu-keung, signed an agreement on December 15, 2008 with the representatives of British-American Tobacco Co (Hong Kong) Limited, Japan Tobacco (Hong Kong) Limited and Philip Morris Asia Limited, to renew the Tobacco Industry Reward Scheme

for another year with effect from January 1, 2009 to encourage the public to provide information on illicit cigarette activities.

The signing of the agreement reflected the full co-operation and determination of the tobacco industry and the department to stamp out illicit cigarette activities.